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## King discusses peace process with Clinton

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. President Bill Clinton discussed the troubled Middle East peace process and bilateral relations in a telephone conversation on Wednesday. Jordanian television reported. The King congratulated Mr. Clinton on his reelection and expressed "Jordan's readiness to work with the United States in pushing the peace process forward," the television said. President Clinton lauded the King's efforts to attain peace in the region.

## U.S. grants Jordan \$250,000

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan and the United States Wednesday signed an agreement according to which the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will grant Jordan \$250,000 to finance its telecommunications sector. The agreement was signed by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Mickey Cantor.

## Floods kill 14 in Morocco

RABAT (AFP) — Two days of torrential rainfall in Morocco have left 14 people dead including eight gendarmes, according to a new toll issued here on Tuesday night. The eight policemen were killed when a gendarmie vehicle skidded off the Casablanca-Rabat highway down an embankment, in heavy rain and high winds.

## Iraq 'ready to talk to U.S.'

CAIRO (AP) — Iraq is ready to enter negotiations with the United States at any level to restore relations on a "sound and solid" basis, a member of Saddam Hussein's inner circle said in remarks published Wednesday. Barzan Al-Tikriti, President Saddam's half-brother and ambassador to the U.N. Headquarters in Geneva, said Baghdad hoped that President Clinton would show "clarity and seriousness" in his dealings with Iraq during his second term in office.

Mr. Tikriti, widely suspected of being in charge of Iraq's intelligence gathering abroad, also warned that Iraq could lash out if it lost all hope that crippling U.N. sanctions imposed on it six years ago will be lifted.

## Israeli police discover settlers' weapons

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said on Wednesday that a cache of weapons stocked by extremist Jewish settlers had been discovered in the Hebron region. "We discovered the weapons in a cache and we are looking for other stocks," Mr. Kahalani told a parliamentary committee. The minister did not provide any details on the amount and types of weapons that were seized.

## GCC ministers back UAE in dispute with Iran

DUBAI (R) — Gulf Arab defence ministers on Wednesday renewed backing for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in its territorial dispute with Iran and underlined the importance of stability in the strategic oil-rich Gulf. The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministers, in a statement at the end of a two-day meeting in the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh, also called on Tehran to approach its problem with the UAE "in a brotherly and Islamic spirit."

## Srour appears favourite in House speakership elections

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Incumbent Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srour is likely to retain his seat this year for a third consecutive term. His two main rivals until now

# Prime minister pledges speedy implementation of King's amnesty, directives to review bread prices

## House speaker hails His Majesty's decision

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Wednesday sent a message to His Majesty King Hussein pledging his government's compliance with the directives the King issued in a letter to the premier Tuesday.

"The government will implement your Royal directives by ending legal procedures against those involved in the Karak riots of last August following the change in the bread subsidies formula," said Mr. Kabariti.

He said that the government will also take steps to carry out the King's pardon granted to convicts "who have repented and have been rehabilitated so that they can join the country's construction efforts and join the free people of Jordan."

King Hussein had instructed the government to end legal procedures against those involved in

the riots and those who "deviated from the right path."

"The pardon should cover any convict who had served part of his prison term and is able to become a righteous person once again and join his folks. This also applies to any prisoner who is considered by the authorities as a good person who will not harm national security or people in any way," the King had said.

In his reply letter, Mr. Kabariti pledged that the government will reconsider the bread prices in light of decrease in prices of wheat on the international markets once the wheat at the new prices arrive in Jordan for local consumption, adding that the government will continue to supply cash subsidies to the public.

"The government will also maintain close cooperation with Parliament to work out legislation that would put an end to any

affiliation of Jordanian political parties with external powers," added the prime minister.

In his letter to the prime minister, the King said "I demand that the government pursue the course of enhancing legislation and enforcing the existing laws connected with the political groups which maintain links with external circles in a bid to put a final end to such affiliations by these groups who are Jordanian by name but who receive directives and financing from abroad."

Referring to reforms, the Prime Minister said that the government "could not have achieved anything without (the King's) support and wise guidance in the best interest of the nation and the Jordanian citizens." This, he said, has "enabled us to carry out what we have committed ourselves to do even if we were met with misunderstanding at some

times or faced unjust attitudes at others."

Also Wednesday, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srour hailed the King's pardon for the prisoners and said that tolerance and magnanimity have always marked the nature of the Hashemite family.

Mr. Srour said that Jordanians "take pride in their leadership which has demonstrated noble feelings not only towards Jordanian citizens but also in relations with other Arab countries."

News reports that about 250 people will be covered by the amnesty concerning Karak riots. But the government has yet to determine the categories of convicts to be released under the special pardon. Official sources said persons convicted on corruption charges or those who pose a security threat will not be included in the amnesty.

Monday an agreement over Hebron was "close at hand." His spokesman Nicholas Burns said later that the negotiations needed "a little bit more of progress" before a deal could be signed.

Another diplomat said Mr. Ross also wanted to be in Washington at a time when President Bill Clinton, who was reelected this month, was expected to make key decisions on his cabinet after several members, including Mr. Christopher, had announced that they were leaving the administration.

Meanwhile, Israeli Finance Minister Dan Meridor called on Mr. Arafat to make concessions in the Palestinian stand so that the Hebron deal could be signed immediately.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Meridor, who is also attending the MENA conference in Cairo, declined to be specific on what exactly Israel was seeking from the Palestinians to clinch a deal on Hebron.

But reports from Israel said the Jewish state was refusing to accept a Palestinian demand for written assurances that it would move ahead quickly to the

blockade of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank since February, amid a wave of Islamic suicide-bombings in the Jewish state. The closure has crippled the Palestinian economy.

Israeli radio said Tuesday that Israel has imposed a

## Jordan celebrates King's 61st birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein today celebrates his 61st birthday, an occasion that Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti described as "a birthday for all Jordanians."

In a message of good wishes to King Hussein Mr. Kabariti said "you have given so much to your people and made Jordan what it is today, spending your life for the country and its people, serving as the beacon lighting the way for them and instilling in them the spirit of pride and vigour."

"By sharing with you the celebration on your birthday the Jordanian people are expressing loyalty and allegiance," Mr. Kabariti added.

Pledging to follow the King's directives the prime minister said: "We are determined to pursue self-reliance undaunted by any obstacle in our efforts to make Jordan enjoy stability and prosperity."

Speakers of Senate and the Lower House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi and Sa'ad Hayel Srour also sent cables of good wishes to the King on the occasion



expressing the Jordanian people pride in the services and sacrifices the monarch did for country and people.

"It is a great honour for us as parliamentarians to share with you the celebration of your birthday expressing our deepest affection and true allegiance to the Hashemite throne," said Mr. Lawzi in his cable.

In his cable of congratula-

tions, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Kaabneh, said that "your wise leadership and your relentless efforts have given Jordan significant position among the nations of the world."

King Hussein received messages on this occasion from the directors of Public Security, Intelligence and

(Continued on page 12)

## Israel said to accept call for lifting closure in Cairo declaration

### Musa: 'Israel's days of big talking are over'

CAIRO (Agencies) — The final declaration of the Middle East Economic Conference will support a lifting of Israel's blockade of the Palestinian territories, a Palestinian official said here Wednesday.

The declaration "mentions the restriction and the

closure and it says that the removal of such a closure will enhance the economy and stop the deterioration," Samir Huteileh, commerce and industry undersecretary, told AFP.

He said Israel had accepted this formula.

Israel has imposed a

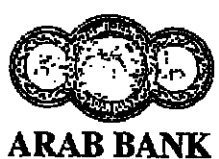
blockade of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank since February, amid a wave of Islamic suicide-bombings in the Jewish state. The closure has crippled the Palestinian economy.

Israeli radio said Tuesday

(Continued on page 7)



# Happy Birthday and long life Your Majesty



ARAB BANK

## Srour appears favourite in House speakership elections

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Incumbent Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srour is likely to retain his seat this year for a third consecutive term. His two main rivals until now

are Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Ibrahim Kilani and centrist Deputy Mohammad Adoub Zaben. Early signs do not show, however, that the two candidates could muster enough votes to ensure their victory against Mr. Srour.

Although it knows it might be a losing battle, the IAF bloc insists on nominating Dr. Kilani. It is a matter of principle, says Bassam Emoush, an IAF deputy. But the front's efforts are, in fact, mainly directed at lobbying for the deputy speaker's seat for

which the front stands a better chance than the speakership.

The 19-member National Action Front (NAF) intends also to field its own candidate for the first deputy speaker seat.

(Continued on page 12)



Palbearers carry the coffin of Ahmad Ali Sobeh, who was murdered in Iraq Monday (Petra photo)

## Body of slain ministry staffer brought home

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Jordan on Wednesday repatriated the body of an embassy driver killed by gunmen who stole his car and the diplomatic pouch he was taking to Baghdad. The Jordanian embassy said here, Ambassador Bassam Qaqish and embassy staff travelled by car to the border with the body of 40-year-old Omar Ahmad Ali Sobeh who was shot dead Monday by three gunmen, embassy personnel said. Officials said the bag that was stolen contained embassy mail and more than 250 blank passports. Iraqi authorities are investigating the attack which occurred after the car crossed into Iraq from Jordan. The ambassador said the diplomatic car made the trip between Amman and Baghdad every two weeks with the pouch. Iraqi ambassador Nuri Ismail Luwais condemned the attack and blamed "one of the bands of outlaws which have cropped up in Iraq because of the unjust U.N. embargo imposed on the country." Since the end of the 1991 Gulf war, highway robbery has increased on the Iraqi section of the 1,000-kilometre road between the two capitals.

## Netanyahu protests arrest of Israeli 'spy'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has issued a sharp protest to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak over the arrest of an Israeli citizen on charges of spying, the Israeli media reported Wednesday.

"Israel Public Radio and the Yediot Aharonot newspaper said Mr. Netanyahu sent his protest to Mr. Mubarak after receiving assurances from the Israeli intelligence agencies that the suspect, Azzam Azzam, did not work for them. In his message, Mr. Netanyahu said the charges against Mr. Azzam, a businessman from northern Israel, were "completely unfounded" and he demanded the man's immediate release, the radio said. Mr. Azzam, who worked for the Israeli textile firm Tifon at its Cairo plant, was arrested a week ago by Egyptian security services on suspicion of spying for the Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence agency. His arrest followed that of an Egyptian employee of Tifon, Emad Ismail, 35, who was picked up on Nov. 2

and told the authorities he had been recruited to spy for Mossad during a trip to Israel, an Egyptian judicial source said.

The two were remanded for 15 days on Monday while police investigate the charges against them. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy discussed Mr. Azzam's case on Tuesday in Cairo with his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa, on the sidelines of the regional economic conference.

"Azzam is completely innocent and we will neither rest nor be silenced until we see him returned to his family," Mr. Levy told Israeli reporters after the meeting. Egypt's new mufti said Wednesday he favoured economic cooperation with Israel despite the blocked Middle East peace process, as long as it safeguarded Arab and Egyptian interests. "I welcome any economic cooperation with Israel or other countries on condition that it realises the interests of Egypt, Arab and Islamic countries," said Sheikh Nasr Farid Mohammad Wassef, who took over the religious post on Monday.

## Doctors warn of 'critical' situation for Kurds

TEHRAN (Agencies) — The French relief agency Doctors without Borders warned here on Wednesday of an "extremely critical" situation for Kurdish refugees in Iran as winter approaches.

Up to two children under the age of five have been dying from cold each night in the past 15 days in Kileh camp, situated in a mountainous region of West Azerbaijan province along the Iraqi border. Sotiris Papaspyropoulos, head of the group's Tehran office, told reporters. The bulk of some 65,000 refugees arrived in September to escape fighting between rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq and have been sheltered in camps along the border. Iran says it has done all it could to accommodate the Kurds, but has called for urgent international help to meet growing needs.

## Hariri attacks critics

BEIRUT (AP) — Having trouble getting his new government on a smooth start, an irritated Rafik Hariri lashed out at critics Wednesday and vowed to stay on course with his multimillion dollar plan to rebuild Lebanon from the civil war.

"Our course is clear. Development and reconstruction will continue, so will expanding security and strengthening international relations," the prime minister told reporters.

Without naming them, Mr. Hariri assailed his critics, apparently referring to Minister of the Displaced Walid Junblatt, the outspoken former Druze warlord. "People are really getting

annoyed," Mr. Hariri said. "As if there is an attempt to make the Lebanese lose faith in themselves and their country ... this is shameful."

Mr. Junblatt said in interviews earlier in the week that the government, of which he is a member, was "rotten" and harboured "great contradictions." He also predicted that the cabinet "will not last despite the power of money and politics of some of those in authority," a clear reference to Mr. Hariri.

The political wrangling before Mr. Hariri's cabinet presents its policy outline to parliament for a vote of confidence later this month mainly serves as an irritant for the prime min-

ister and is not expected to bring down the government.

Mr. Hariri is backed by Syria, Lebanon's main power broker which has about 40,000 troops on its territory and sets the country's policy.

The prime minister is billed as Lebanon's saviour from post-war economic collapse and even his ardent opponents acknowledge that.

Mr. Hariri, who along with allies won a parliamentary majority in August-September elections, had been expecting a stronger hand in running a country with 18 recognised religious sects.

## 12 die in raid on Algerian village

PARIS (R) — Twelve Algerians, including four women and three children, were killed in a raid on a village near the garrison town of Blida, south of Algiers, overnight, Algerian security forces said on Wednesday.

The killings in the tiny community of Douar Ben Salah, in the Oued Al Alleug district, were carried out in darkness near the scene a week ago of one of the most bloody attacks on a village, attributed to Muslim fundamentalists, in five years of violence.

In a statement on the official Algerian news agency APS, the security forces said on Wednesday the 12 were "assassinated in a cowardly way" — the term Algerian authorities use for civilians killed by having their throats cut by Muslim rebels.

"Among the victims were four women and three children," the security

forces said. They gave no other details.

The latest killing was carried out only two weeks before a referendum is to be held to change the constitution. Among other provisions, the reforms will ban political parties based on religion. This follows the success of an Islamist party in the last general elections, cancelled in January 1992.

The upsurge of violence ahead of the referendum on Nov. 28 was underscored last Sunday when a car-bomb ripped apart a bus carrying workers, killing 10 of them and wounding 20 according to the official toll. Residents say at least 20 people were killed.

Both Douar Ben Salah and Sid Al Kebir, the target of the attack overnight on Tuesday last week, are near Blida, the town 50 kilometres south of Algiers which is the headquarters of Algeria's number one military region.

In last week's attack, 32 people, including 11 women — one newly wed slain in her bed — had their throats cut in three hours of bloodshed.

That raid raised questions in Algeria's independent media on how fundamentalists could take over a village for so long without help arriving. Around 50 families fled the killings and took refuge in nearby hills until daybreak.

State-run television the following day showed most of the village men wielding Kalashnikov assault rifles which they said the security forces had now distributed to them.

More than 50,000 people are estimated to have died in the violence which erupted shortly after the elections were cancelled in 1992. Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has promised fresh general elections in the first half of next year.

## Arab-Americans, Muslims voted overwhelmingly for Clinton

By Emile S. Siman  
USIS

WASHINGTON — Arab-American voters preferred President Bill Clinton to the Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole by a wide margin, according to a poll conducted by the James Zogby Group and the Arab-American Institute in the period both prior to and after the election.

A survey polling randomly selected Arab-American voters, conducted on Nov. 6 and 7, showed that about one-half voted for Mr. Clinton (53 per cent) and nearly one-third for Mr. Dole (34 per cent) with 13 per cent

choosing other candidates. The same group of voters polled between Sept. 27 and Oct. 6 had shown a preference for Mr. Clinton to Mr. Dole by a margin of 43.4 per cent-29.6 per cent.

Support for Mr. Clinton was stronger in the east and midwest (60 per cent) against 28 per cent for Mr. Dole. As for the south and west, the margin was smaller with Mr. Clinton garnering 49 per cent to Mr. Dole's 39 per cent.

As to breakdown by nationality, 47 per cent of those of Lebanese and Syrian descent voted for Mr. Clinton (vs. 42 per cent for Mr. Dole) while a whopping 70 per cent of

voters of Palestinian and other Arab origins chose Mr. Clinton, compared to only 15 per cent for Mr. Dole. Far more Muslim Arab-American voters picked Mr. Clinton (79 per cent) than did Christian voters (40 per cent). As for Mr. Dole, the Muslim-Christian margin was 11 per cent and 47 per cent, respectively.

The proportion of Arab-American voters who identified themselves as Democratic was 37.8 per cent while Republican Arab-Americans were not far behind with 25.3 per cent. Other voters, mainly independents, constituted 23.1 per cent of those polled.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Most Arab Israelis to be deprived of state scholarships

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli Education Ministry announced Wednesday that scholarships for higher education would henceforth be given only to military veterans, a decision which excludes most of Israel's Arab citizens. "We have decided that from now on, only students who have finished their military service will be eligible for scholarships," Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled told parliament. Mr. Peled, from the ultra-nationalist Tsomet Party, said the decision was designed "to improve motivation to serve in the military." He added that Arab Israelis who traditionally do not serve in the army could enroll in civilian service to become eligible for the scholarships.

### Britain to insure West Bank, Gaza investments

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Britain has extended political risk insurance to cover investors wishing to operate in Palestinian self-rule areas, the British consulate-general said on Wednesday. "Britain's Export Credits Risk Guarantee Department (ECGD) can now offer political risk insurance to British investors in the Palestinian Authority areas," the consulate said in a statement.

### Fundamentalists kill 2 in attack

MINYA, Egypt (AFP) — Islamic fundamentalist gunmen have shot dead two people and seriously wounded a 12-year-old girl in southern Egypt, police sources said on Wednesday.

### Palestinians still trapped at Libyan-Egyptian border

CAIRO (AFP) — Around 250 Palestinian deportees are still blocked on the border between Egypt and Libya despite recent reports that their camp would be dismantled, an international humanitarian group said on Wednesday. The private French relief group Doctors without Borders said that many of the refugees were "reluctant to return to Libya," which expelled thousands of Palestinians in September 1995 to protest Israeli-Palestinian peace accords.

### Rabbi praises Hebron killer as 'great hero'

KIRYAT ARBA, West Bank (AFP) — An Israeli rabbi praised Baruch Goldstein as a "great hero" during Bar Mitzvah celebrations for the son of the settler who massacred 29 Palestinians in Hebron in 1994, the Yediot Aharonot newspaper reported Wednesday. "Follow the path of your father, he was a righteous man and a great hero," Rabbi Dov Lior told the 13-year-old Yaacov Goldstein Tuesday at his Bar Mitzvah ceremony in this settlement just outside Hebron, the newspaper reported. Several hundred people attended the Bar Mitzvah, a ceremony marking the passage to manhood and responsibility before God for Jewish boys, reported a Yediot journalist who sneaked into the event.

### Suspected activists blow up showroom

SITRA, Bahrain (AP) — A bomb ripped through a car showroom in a poor neighbourhood long the site of anti-government unrest, officials said Wednesday. A guard was slightly wounded. It was the latest act of violence in nearly two years of strife in Bahrain, a Gulf banking hub and hostile to a U.S. heavy base.

### Israeli despair growing — poll

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Fear for the future of the Jewish state has grown sharply among Israelis since the arrival in power of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government five months ago, according to an opinion poll published Wednesday. The poll by the Panorama Marketing institute showed that 60 per cent of Israeli citizens "fear for the future of the state" and are worried about the prospects of renewed war with the Arabs as a result of the government's hardline policies.

### Israeli nuclear waste brought to Lebanon — parliament sources

BEIRUT (AFP) — Waste from the Israeli nuclear station at Dimona was secretly diverted to Lebanon, parliamentary sources said Wednesday. No further details were available on the nature, amount or form of the waste, the source said. Several members of parliament told AFP that parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri was looking into the matter. He is calling for a parliamentary commission of inquiry on the problem of toxic industrial waste in Lebanon, said several legislators, including Marwan Fares and Georges Qassarji, who represent the Bekaa valley.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

13:35 .....The Little Mermaid  
14:25 The Kid with the 200 IQ  
15:55 .....Take That (Variety)  
17:25 .....Le Monde Est a Vous  
19:00 .....Le Journal  
19:15 Magazine — Atomes  
Cinechus  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 .....Pacific Station (Comedy)  
20:00 Special programme on the occasion of H.M. King Hussein's birthday  
20:30 .....Varieties programme  
21:00 .....Special Programme  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 Feature film: "Corn is Green"  
23:59 .....Music Show — Yanni

### PRAYER TIMES

04:30 .....Fajr  
05:58 .....(Sunrise) Doha  
11:20 .....Dhuhr  
14:16 .....Asr  
16:41 .....Maghreb  
18:01 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swidieh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of Gdd Church Tel.  
632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
Terza Sancta Church Tel.  
622306

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church  
Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church  
Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel.  
771751.  
Armenian International Church  
Tel. 827126  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 824328.  
German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932.  
Church of Nazarene Tel.  
675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Unstable weather conditions will prevail during the weekend with clouds building up and skies partly cloudy. There will be a chance for scattered showers and winds becoming southeasterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas choppy.

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6  
Akileh Maternity, 642441/2

Deserts .....07/23  
Jordan Valley .....16/27  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 23, Aqaba 29 Humidity  
readings: Amman 22 per cent,  
Aqaba 20 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:  
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikha 752405  
Dr. Yusuf Al Faqih 790104  
Dr. Mukhlis Alaksh 819230  
Dr. Rabi Sukkar 836457  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy 637055  
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660  
Yacoub pharmacy 649445  
Najib pharmacy 847632

### IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'amineh 250080  
Al Quds pharmacy 4111

### ZARQA:

Dr. Issa Al Omari 901366  
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111,  
637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Department  
630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints  
.....897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints  
.....787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Company 636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### AMMAN:

Dr. Issa Al Omari 901366  
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

### IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'amineh 250080  
Al Quds pharmacy 4111

### ZARQA:

Dr. Issa Al Omari 901366  
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman .....636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital .....669131  
University Hospital .....845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital .....667279  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....77101/3  
Al-Bashir, .....775111/26  
Army, Marka .....891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital .....602240/50  
Amal Hospital .....674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....(09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital .....(09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital .....(09)990990  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital .....(02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital .....(02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital .....(02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital .....(03)314111  
FOR THE TRAVELLER  
QUEEN ALIA

### INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:15 .....Bombya (RJ)  
08:40 .....Sanaa, Aqaba (RJ)  
09:15 .....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)  
09:45 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
10:05 .....Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:05 .....Beirut (RJ)  
10:30 .....Colombo (RJ)  
14:45 .....New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
16:25 .....London (RJ)  
16:40 .....Casablanca (RJ)  
17:35 .....Moscow (RJ)  
18:10 .....Athens (RJ)  
19:05 .....Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)  
19:25 .....Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)  
19:40 .....Rome (RJ)

### Other Flights

11:00 .....Doha (Q7)  
12:40 .....Doha (GF)  
13:30 .....Riyadh (SV)  
14:10 .....Sharjah (AH)  
15:15 .....Damascus (Q7)  
16:15 .....Dubai (EK)  
20:10 .....Beirut (ME)  
20:35 .....Cairo (MS)

### 21:40 .....Tel Aviv (LY)

### Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:20 .....Aqaba (RW)  
18:55 .....Tel Aviv (RW)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 .....Beirut (RJ)  
07:15 .....Moscow (RJ)  
10:30 .....Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)  
11:00 .....Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
11:05 .....Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
11:15 .....Rome (RJ)  
12:10 .....Paris (RJ)  
12:15 .....London (RJ)  
12:20 .....Athens (RJ)  
20:10 .....Cairo (RJ)  
20:15 .....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
20:20 .....Lanaca (RJ)  
20:30 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
22:00 .....Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

### Other Flights

06:00 .....Istanbul (TK)  
07:35 .....Beirut, London (BA)  
07:45 .....Beirut (ME)  
11:45 .....Damascus (Q7)  
13:30 .....Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)  
15:00 .....Algiers (AH)  
16:00 .....Riyadh (SV)  
17:15 .....Dubai, Damascus (EK)  
21:25 .....Cairo (MS)  
22:50 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
02:30 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
04:35 .....Rome (AZ)

### Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50 .....Marka (RW)  
20:50 .....Aqaba (RW)

### HUJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple .....700/500  
Banana .....550/550  
Banana (imported) .....320/650  
Cabbage .....100/60  
Carrot .....280/180  
Cauliflower .....260/200  
Cucumber (large) .....170/120  
Cucumber (small) .....300/200  
Eggplant .....180/100  
Garlic .....700/500  
Grapes .....430/250  
Guava .....500/300  
Lemon .....360/180  
Marrow (large) .....170/100  
Marrow (small) .....280/200  
Onion (green) .....250/180  
Onion (dry) .....160/100  
Olive (green) .....500/450  
Olive (black) .....800/400  
Orange .....550/350  
Pear .....510/400  
Pepper (hot) .....300/200  
Pepper (sweet) .....260/160  
Potato .....380/220  
Spinach .....240/100  
String Bean .....600/400  
Tomato .....340/320

Handwritten signature or stamp.



## Queen addresses World Food Summit in Rome

AMMAN (J.T.) — Over 100 world leaders and heads of state converged Wednesday in Italy, for the opening of the World Food Summit in Rome, where Her Majesty Queen Noor addressed the first working session of the summit, a Royal Court statement said.

The Queen, who is president of the International Steering Committee on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women (ISC), highlighted the role of rural women as the "least mobilised resource for balanced and sufficient food production at the global level," but whose production is not done "efficiently or sufficiently due to inadequate education, social discrimination or legal obstacles that limit their access to land, credit, training, technology and marketing channels."

The Queen noted that the 1992 Geneva Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women emphasised the "direct linkage between the capacity of our world to feed itself and the ability of rural women to participate fully in the economic, social and political life of their communities," which was reinforced by the recommendations of the non-governmental organisations' Forum on the Food Summit, held last month in Rome, the statement said.

Although increase of food production is possible in the short term through biotechnologies, maintaining crop diversity and rotation, adopting integrated pest management and focusing on high-yielding varieties of food, these gains will remain vulnerable to the "wider threats of social turbulence and political instability, especially in agrarian societies—where the basic production unit—the family—is under social, economic, environmental and political pressure," she said.

The Queen added "the fast pace of rural-urban migration today demonstrates how economic and environmental pressures ravage rural communities and aggravate food insecurity."

In Jordan, human migration has sharply risen in the past decade as to affect 75 per cent of the total rural population, up from 37 per cent in the 1950s.

She emphasised that global sustainable food security requires "decentralising development planning and decision-making thereby empowering rural communities and by insuring a more equitable distribution of development benefits."

The Queen also noted that community-based development work in Jordan has

shown that rural women "with education, training and income-generating opportunities, can raise food production and meet their children's nutritional needs, teach them good health and environmental practices and improve their families' overall quality of life."

Rural women, according to the Queen, therefore may well be instrumental in responding to some of the major national and global challenges such as food security, rural urban migration, high population growth and environmental stress, "but only if their different needs are 'addressed in a comprehensive and integrated manner.'"

To that end, the ISC has promoted innovative pilot projects which seek to reduce poverty and raise living standards primarily by building on the knowledge and productivity of rural women, the statement said.

The projects have ranged from a new Rural Women's Network in Saint Lucia and the establishment of a first women's bank in Pakistan to rural micro enterprises and poverty-eradication programmes in East Asia as well as integrated production and training projects for women within a broader development model that also fosters legal changes and political participation in Jordan and other Arab countries.

Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat, who is heading the Jordanian delegation to the summit, asserted that Jordan is promoting the role of rural women as an essential element in sustainable agricultural production through various programmes such as the recently approved World Food Programme's \$16 million fund, which will be apportioned into three projects which emphasise the role of rural women and a certain share of which will be used to train rural women in skills related to food production.

Another project, according to the minister, is the "Diversification of Sources of Income for Rural Women Programme," which the government launched two years ago and which supplies funds for rural micro-enterprises, "with particular emphasis on those that augment the Kingdom's livestock wealth."

The world is witnessing an alarming trend of feminisation of global poverty with 70 per cent of the world's 1.2 billion poor being women; six out of every ten poor people in the world are rural women, the statement said.

About one-fourth of the female labourforce in the

## Plaintiff drops charges against Toujan Faisal

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Samar Oran, who last week won a lawsuit against Lower House of Parliament Deputy Toujan Faisal, Wednesday announced that she was withdrawing the slander case and dropping new counts in a second lawsuit currently being tried.

Ms. Oran, a pilot at Royal Jordanian, said she decided to drop both cases in honour of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday and "for the sake of the women's movement in the country."

"I made my decision because of the dear occasion of His Majesty's birthday and for the general benefit of our country," Ms. Oran told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

On July 7th, Deputy Faisal was found guilty of slander by the Court of First Instance, given a jail sentence of two months and ordered to pay JD6,000 to Ms. Oran in compensation for libel and defamation regarding comments she made in press publications.

The higher court returned the case to the Court of

First Instance last month, because the defendant (Ms. Faisal) wanted to submit evidence for her defence.

However, on Nov. 7, Ms. Faisal again failed to appear in court to present her evidence and was again sentenced to two-months imprisonment and ordered to pay JD6,000 in compensation.

Ms. Oran had accused the deputy of tarnishing her image and meddling in her private life by publicly criticising her in two separate interviews in weekly tabloids.

However, Ms. Oran was quick to point out that she will not hesitate to sue Ms. Faisal in the future "if she continues to tarnish my image."

"I have won morally and I have gained and cleared my name but if [Ms. Faisal] repeats her defamation I will definitely take her to court," Ms. Oran said.

Ms. Faisal, the only female deputy in the House, was not available for comment Wednesday evening as she had left the country on a three-day trip to Spain, according to relatives.

But in a recent interview



Toujan Faisal

with the Jordan Times, Ms. Faisal said she received assurances from top officials that they were going to investigate the matter.

In the interview she stated her rejection of the verdict stating a lack of trust in the judicial system and that she would sue the court as well as the entire judicial system in international tribunals.

I am going to wait for the results of the investigations and if I do not receive [an adequate] answer I am going to act because what happened was corrupt and not judicial," Ms. Faisal had said.

The deputy from Amman's Third district, who holds the Circassian seat, had said that she will



Samar Oran

be presenting documents which would conclusively prove the involvement of top officials in corruption cases, avowing "if I feel that there is any manipulation I will expose them all."

Ms. Faisal had claimed that top officials had asked her not to attend the court session as everything "would be settled."

However, the deputy's presence in court was essential and she was sentenced twice in absentia due to her failure to appear.

The two articles in question, in the weekly Al Hadath, related to rumours spread last year over a possible relationship between Ms. Oran, who is married, and former Minister of

Higher Education Rafea Saoud, also a married deputy.

The story, which made headlines in the weekly tabloids, was quickly forgotten.

But Ms. Oran embarked upon legal recourse over the deputy's statements as reported by the weekly in two separate interviews.

Ms. Toujan, in an interview with the weekly Shihan after the first verdict was announced, said she did not want to interfere in the life of Ms. Oran and her husband.

Monzer Hammo, Ms. Faisal's attorney Wednesday told the Jordan Times that Ms. Oran's decision will work to the advantage of his client as it will end the case after it is reviewed by a higher court.

"Hopefully the higher court will accept Ms. Oran's decision and return the verdict to the First Instance Court for consideration and the case will end once Ms. Oran informs the court of her intention to drop charges against my client," he said.

## Minister promotes hiring of nationals

GHOR SAFI (Petra) — In a bid to procure employment for currently unemployed nationals, the Ministry of Labour is determined to enforce regulations deeming illegal the employment of guest workers above 10 per cent of the total number of workers in any given project.

Minister of Labour Abdul Hafiz Shakhaneh announced Wednesday. Official estimates put unemployment in the Kingdom at 15 per cent of the potential total working population.

During an inspection visit to the Arab Potash Company (APC) and its subsidiary factories near the southern tip of the Dead Sea, Dr. Shakhaneh declared that the APC is one of the key firms operating in the country and enumerated its local employment as including some 2,000 engineers, technicians and labourers.

The purpose of his visit to the APC plant, the minister said, was to observe workers employed by sub-contracting companies in connection with the plant's potash production.

Although some of the technical jobs are assumed by foreign workers, he said, the sub-contractors and the APC plant must strive to abide by regulations regarding foreign employment and give priority to qualified Jordanians.

Dr. Shakhaneh maintained that vocational training centres in Jordan are capable of graduating qualified workers for employment at the APC plant.

APC Director General Naser Saadoun informed the minister that the plant produces an annual 1.8 million tonnes of potash and that Jordan ranks a global sixth among potash producing nations.

He also said that 98 per cent of the plant's workers are, indeed, Jordanians.

Mr. Saadoun further stated that last September the APC installed a specific plant for table salt production and that in 1997 the company will announce a tender for the construction of a magnesium oxide producing factory as well as one designated to produce bromine.

He expressed optimism that the APC would be capable of raising the annual potash production to 2.2 million through further future expansions.

Accompanied by APC officials, Dr. Shakhaneh toured the plant and later inspected work on the construction of a number of dams undertaken by a Turkish contracting firm.

## Indonesian President Suharto visits Kingdom's tourist sites

AMMAN (AFP) — Indonesian President Suharto Wednesday made the rounds of Jordan's top tourist attractions, the Dead Sea and the ancient city of Petra, officials said.

Jordan has launched an ambitious tourism development programme in the area, which is the lowest point on earth — about 400 meters below sea level.

President Suharto also visited the potassium extraction works on the southern shore of the Dead Sea from which Jordan exports large quantities

of potassium to Indonesia. The president spent several hours exploring Petra, the ancient capital of the Nabateans, carved out of pink rock.

Mr. Suharto, who began his four-day state visit here Monday, has held talks with King Hussein regarding the development of bilateral ties and the Middle East peace process.

At a dinner Tuesday given by the King in his honour, the Indonesian president called for the creation of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its

capital and he voiced support for Arab efforts to recover territory occupied by Israel.

The Asian leader is to visit Rome starting Friday to address the World Food Summit on Indonesia's experience in developing its agriculture sector.

Indonesia transformed itself from one of the world's largest rice importers in the 1970s to a self-sufficient rice producer in 1984.

## Meeting focuses on protection of Aqaba environment

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat Wednesday opened a seminar in Aqaba entitled "Scientific Day" by pledging his ministry's determination to work on stemming pollution in the port city of Aqaba.

"Environmental protection is a national duty and the ministry hopes to extend efforts for its defence while putting an end to practices responsible for its contamination," Dr. Tubeishat said, deputising for Prime Minister Abdul

Karim Kabariti. He further maintained the inseparability of environmental protection and socio-economic development, stating that this pair is included in an environmental national strategy endorsed by the government last year.

Dr. Tubeishat also stated his hope that the meeting participants would brainstorm methods to ensure the continued protection of Aqaba as well as its industrial and commercial businesses, tourist facilities, port and marine ecology.

Aqaba Governor Salem

Turk requested that the government and related organisations give priority to environmental protection in Aqaba as part of national efforts to attract tourists and ensure safe development projects.

Director of the General Corporation for Environmental Protection (GCEP) Saleh Share'eh addressed the assembly, maintaining that the GCEP was closely cooperating with local, regional and international non-governmental organisations to better protect the environment.

## Wildlife delegation leaves for Africa

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) Wednesday left on a three-week tour of wildlife reserves in Kenya and Uganda.

Both African countries have reserves which account for up to 15 per cent of their total land mass.

RSCN Director Khaled Irani described the aim of the visit as learning more about African reserves and to benefit from their experiences in protecting various fauna and flora, especially that which is threatened with extinction.

The nature conservancy has established six wildlife

reserves in Jordan where several animal and bird species reside, including the Arabian oryx, the mountain gazelle, the ibex and striped hyena.

According to the RSCN, the national reserve system will encompass four per cent of the Kingdom's territory by the end of this century and will include areas representative of all natural regions.

Mr. Irani, who is also heading the travelling delegation, said in a pre-departure statement that they will hold talks with authorities responsible for the wildlife reserves in the two African countries in order to prepare for a bilateral visit exchange and to benefit from expertise in the creation and management of reserves.

He said that Kenya and Uganda rely primarily on what he called "environmental tourism" and wildlife reserves to attract tourists and their pursuant income and that the RSCN is planning to benefit from the two countries' plans in attracting visitors to the Kingdom's wildlife reserves.

The RSCN was established in 1975 and plays a vital role in activities, both legislative and other, related to the conservation of nature and environmental protection in the Kingdom.

## Kabariti urges storage of sufficient medication

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Wednesday urged the Ministry of Health to ensure availability of sufficient medication for patients suffering from diabetes and heart conditions and further urged that these be stored at the ministry's warehouses on a permanent basis.

During a visit to the ministry where he met with Health Minister Aref Bataineh and other senior assistants, the prime minister said that the government along with the Ministry of Health is currently in the process of unifying procedures regarding medicinal purchases and their consequent distribution.

The meeting covered ministry plans to build hospitals at Wadi Mousa, Bani Kananeh and various issues concerning the Princess Hamzeh hospital.

Also discussed were Ministry of Health plans to coordinate treatment of cancer patients, referred by Ministry of Health hospitals and health centres, at the Al Amal Cancer Centre.

Dr. Bataineh briefed the prime minister on his visit to Algeria and the two protocols concluded there, the first outlining the treatment of Algerian patients in the Kingdom while the second dealt with the exchange of manufacturing expertise, industry personnel training and joint marketing of medication produced by the two countries.

The minister also briefed Mr. Kabariti vis-à-vis ministry services to the general public and its future projections.

## Prince Faisal inaugurates new country club

By Maria Bizri  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, HRH Prince Faisal Ben Hussein Wednesday laid the foundation stone of the Dunes Club, a country club located in the Yaloudeh region next to the Ghamadan Forest.

Costing JD10 million, the completion of the club is scheduled for spring 1998 and will comprise a total area of approximately 12,000 square metres with an additional 60,000 square metres for landscape grounds.

The club is owned by the Amman Development and Investment Company (ADI) which was formed for the purpose of constructing the club.

Funds for the project come from both local and foreign investors, encour-



aged by new government incentives as stipulated in the new tax and investment laws.

"As a Saudi investor, I believe that Jordan's stable political climate and its government incentives make an attractive place for such a project," said Mr. Malek Intabi, board member of ADI, adding that "Jordan has a bright and prominent future."

employ local labour, creating 150 new jobs and will boost the real estate value of land surrounding the club which has already doubled since the land purchase.

Additionally, the project is viewed as promoting internal tourism which translates to more local currency expenditure and preservation of currency which might otherwise be spent abroad.

As the project is located in a relatively undeveloped area, on the Queen Alia Airport Road, it is also expected to generate economy for the vicinity.

The club is described as family-oriented, multi-sportive and social and is designed to cater to 1,750 families. It is the first of a "chain of clubs which will be launched in all major cities of the region," Mr. Intabi said.



# Shelling halts first U.N. aid hand-out in Goma

GOMA, Zaire (R) — Four shells slammed into a hill in the eastern Zairean city of Goma Wednesday, prompting U.N. officials to suspend their first distribution of aid, a U.N. spokesman said.

Damien Persannaz, of the U.N. Children's Fund, said U.N. trucks sent to Goma hospital to deliver aid were ordered back to a U.N. refugee agency compound because of the shelling.

Some of the 10 tonnes of food aid, held up during two days of talks between aid agencies and local rebels, had been unloaded at the hospital before the halt was ordered.

The shelling erupted after rebels fired at an unidentified plane which made at least three passes over the eastern city, saying they suspected French troops were on board.

It underlined the risk of sending any multinational force to help a million refugees in Zaire without support from both sides in a month-old war.

The question of U.S. approval was a key obstacle to a Canadian-led relief force for eastern Zaire but there was widespread confusion over

how and where it would be deployed.

More than a million long-term Rwandan and Burundian Hutu refugees are cut off from all aid by the conflict between Zairean troops and Tutsi rebels, who hold much of east Zaire. Thousands are feared to be dying in the hills and mountains.

U.N. leaders say the multinational force to bring aid could move by the weekend. Countries ready to take part, led by Canada and France, say some sort of U.S. involvement is widely seen as essential.

A military-led U.S. assessment force of 40 people was due in central Africa Wednesday but Washington said it was undecided on whether to support the force. Officials and diplomats said a U.S. decision could come as early as Wednesday.

But just how to help the refugees and Zairean displaced remains unclear and is one reason for Washington's hesitation.

Zaire, which wants the refugees sent home to its tiny eastern neighbours Rwanda and Burundi, insists that the aid should be flown to the

west — which could attract refugees deeper into Zaire — through the town of Kisangani.

U.N. officials have said an airlift of thousands of tonnes of aid could start this week using Kisangani as a key base and supported by military planes and helicopters.

Kinshasa says deals with the rebels to bring aid from Rwanda to rebel-held eastern areas — such as that now in Goma — violates its sovereignty. But aid agencies say that is the most practical route.

Michelle Quintaglie of the U.N.'s World Food Programme said taking aid in via Kisangani, 500 kilometres away through difficult terrain, would be a "logistical nightmare."

France, whose early push for action was scuppered by hostility from Rwanda and its allied Zairean rebels, suggested it would bless Canadian leadership.

Canada says the force would need up to 10,000 troops for about two months before the United Nations would take it over. France, Spain, Italy, South Africa, Ethiopia and Mali are among 12 countries

so far to pledge troops.

Rwanda and the rebels are against French participation in the international force, accusing Paris of a secret agenda to shore up Zairean authority in the east and help the Hutus.

"If French troops arrive in Goma...we will fire on them and resist them," Commandant Andre Kassasse, the rebel chief in Goma, told reporters after they fired on the light plane passing over.

Among the refugees are thousands of armed Hutus who carried out the 1994 genocide of up to a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda, before fleeing to Zaire.

Rwanda, Zaire and the International Community say refugees must go home to Rwanda. But the Hutus either do not want to or are controlled by gunmen fearing death or jail if they go back.

The multinational force is supposed to help repatriate them but cannot force them to go home from the vast Mugunga refugee camp near Goma or from hills and forests where they are hiding.

## Food summit opens with plea for Zaire

ROME (R) — A World Food Summit called to reduce hunger opened Wednesday with an impassioned plea from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for immediate help for over one million starving refugees in eastern Zaire.

The gathering in Rome, the world's first summit on the fight for food, also heard a call from Pope John Paul to bridge the chasm between rich and poor, saying it was intolerable for some people to live in luxury while others starved.

"At the very moment this summit is taking place, over a million starving, frightened refugees are wandering helplessly in the mountains and forests of eastern Zaire," Dr. Ghali told the summit at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation.

"From this platform, in this eternal city, I make a solemn appeal to peoples and to states to take part, all of them, in the collective action we will undertake in the great lakes region," Dr. Ghali said.

"It is by our ability to take

charge of this tragedy in a collective, concerted fashion that we will give a real meaning to human solidarity," he said to applause.

The crisis in eastern Zaire, where Hutu refugees from past ethnic slaughter in Rwanda and Burundi have been put to flight by fresh violence, is not officially on the agenda of the five-day summit.

But diplomats said efforts to assemble a multinational force to come to the assistance of the refugees were bound to figure in talks on the margins of the meeting, which opened amid the biggest peacetime security operation mounted in Italy.

The summit was to adopt at its outset a declaration and plan of action committing governments to a drive to halve the number of people suffering from chronic hunger and malnutrition from the present 840 million by 2015.

The Pope challenged heads of state and delegates to make every effort to "eliminate the spectre of hunger from the

planet" or face the consequences.

He called for a distribution of wealth and food "based not only on profit" and urged rich countries to cut arms spending and remove the burden of foreign debt on poor nations.

"We have to search together for solutions so that there are no longer people living side by side with people living in opulence," he said in his speech, delivered in French.

"This contrast between poverty and wealth is intolerable for humanity."

The 76-year-old Pope also took a swipe at those who say that the key to food security is population control, an issue which pitted the Vatican against the United States in a heated battle at the U.N. population conference in Cairo in 1994.

"Demography alone does not explain the inadequate distribution of food resources. We must put aside the sophist view that when there are many, one is condemned to be poor," the Pope said.

FAO, the U.N.'s food

agency, has estimated that the world will have to produce 75 per cent more food in the next 30 years to feed the planet's population as it surges from 5.7 billion now to 8.7 billion in 2030.

The agency says it believes the target is reasonable and achievable but FAO director General Jacques Diouf, addressing scepticism that the aims may remain empty words, told delegates it was vital governments took action when they went home.

"The millennium...could be a time of conflict over water and food unless we take the necessary care," Gen. Diouf, who is from Senegal, said.

Clearly vexed, he said FAO's budget amounted to "less than what nine developed countries spend on dog and cat food in six days and, listen to me, less than five per cent of what the inhabitants of one developed country spend each year on slimming products to counter the effects of over-eating."

## Pakistan court asked to reinstate Bhutto

ISLAMABAD (R) — Lawyers for ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto asked the supreme court Wednesday to overturn her dismissal by President Farooq Leghari.

Aitzaz Ahsan, a member of the senate (upper house), wrote a legal petition to the court, pleading that Mr. Leghari's action in sacking Ms. Bhutto's three-year-old government on Nov. 5 had been illegal and unconstitutional.

"We should win if the court simply goes by past precedents, including the Nawaz Sharif judgement," Mr. Ahsan told Reuters shortly before the petition was filed on Ms. Bhutto's behalf.

The supreme court reinstated a government led by Mr. Sharif, leader of the Pakistan Muslim League, in 1993, a few weeks after then President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had dismissed it.

When he removed Ms. Bhutto's government, Mr. Leghari issued a nine-point charge-sheet that included accusations of corruption, nepotism, misuse, undermining the judiciary, bringing the army and presidency into disrepute and letting the security forces kill thousands of people in cold blood in Karachi and elsewhere.

"I look forward to early relief by the supreme court. I repudiate the charges the president has made," Ms. Bhutto said after leaving the prime minister's official residence Tuesday.

Ahsan, a member of Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), said in the 42-page petition that Mr. Leghari's action in dissolving the national assembly (lower house) had been "wholly without lawful authority, unconstitutional (and) arbitrary."

The petition, which raised 20 questions about the legality of Mr. Leghari's action, asked the court to rule that under the constitution Ms. Bhutto was still the prime minister.

The questions included one on whether Mr. Leghari's order was the product of a "biased and irritated mind."

Another asked the court to decide "whether general, vague, unsubstantiated, unproved allegations and charges could justify bona fide exercise of the powers, if any, of the president to dissolve the national assembly."

Under a controversial article of the constitution, presidents may dissolve the national assembly if "a situation has arisen in which the government of the federation cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and an appeal to the electorate is necessary."

After sacking Ms. Bhutto, Mr. Leghari named 80-year-old Meraj Khalid as prime minister of a caretaker government charged with supervising a parliamentary election set for Feb. 3.

## Biggest U.N. vote to end U.S. embargo against Cuba

UNITED NATIONS (R) — By the biggest majority yet, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution on Tuesday for the fifth year in a row calling for an end to the three-decade-old U.S. trade embargo against Cuba.

The vote was 137 to three, with 25 abstentions. Voting against were the United States, Israel and Uzbekistan.

A similar resolution last year received 117 votes, with the same three countries opposed and 38 abstentions.

As in the past, U.S. allies as well as adversaries backed the Cuban draft because they regard the embargo as violating their own sovereignty by subjecting them to the effects of Washington's laws and regulations.

The 15-nation European

Union, three of whose members — Britain, Germany and the Netherlands — abstained last year, this time voted solidly in favour of the resolution.

Other countries that switched to a yes vote from an abstention last year included the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey.

Russia, China, Canada, Mexico, Argentina and Brazil were among those voting for the Cuban resolution, as in the past.

Abstainers included Jordan, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Kuwait, Morocco, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Criticism of U.S. policy has sharpened because of the latest embargo legislation, the Helms-Burton Act. It allows American citizens who were

Cuban nationals before the 1959 communist revolution to sue in U.S. courts foreign companies or individuals who "traffic" in property confiscated by the government of President Fidel Castro.

The law also allows U.S. visas to be denied to shareholders and officers of foreign firms operating these properties in Cuba.

The law was enacted when anti-Castro sentiment was running high in Washington after Cuban MiG fighters last February shot down two light planes belonging to a Miami-based Cuban exile group, killing all four people aboard.

Speaking before the vote, a vice-president of Cuba's ruling council of state, Carlos Lage Davila, said the time had come for a new United States

policy towards his country.

"Electoral tensions have already come to an end in this country. President William Clinton has been re-elected. We believe the time has also come for a new U.S. policy toward Cuba," he said.

Alluding to one of Mr. Clinton's favourite election images, the need to build "a bridge to the 21st century," he asked: "How can a bridge into the future be built if it is not possible to lay a much shorter bridge — just 90 miles long, over which peace in the hemisphere may cross?" — a reference to the distance between Cuba and the United States.

Ambassador Victor Marrero of the United States said Cuba was the only western hemisphere country "ruled by a regime that clings to the dis-

credited, dictatorial habits of the past," ignoring the hopes of its people and international standards of human rights.

The United States, like every other country, had the right to "choose with whom it trades, to protect the property rights of its own citizens, and to pursue its national interests." The embargo provided "important leverage to promote peaceful change in Cuba," he added.

Ambassador John Campbell of Ireland, speaking on behalf of the European Union, which recently decided to make it illegal for its members to comply with the Helms-Burton Act, criticised "increasing violations of civil and political rights" by the Cuban government in the past year.



People sift through rubble and debris Wednesday in the city of Nazca, 290 miles south of Lima, in what used to be their homes before an earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, struck the southern and central parts of Peru (Reuters photo)

## Thousands homeless in Peru after quake kills 7

NAZCA, Peru (R) — Tens of thousands of people slept in the streets Wednesday after their houses were destroyed by an earthquake that hit southern Peru Tuesday, killing seven people and injuring at least 500.

The hardest hit towns were along the Pacific Coast, at Nazca, 290 miles (460 km) south of the capital Lima, where 300 were injured and Ica, 100 miles (160 km) further north, where another 200 were injured, Peruvian officials said.

By early Wednesday, Nazca had felt at least 100 after-shocks of the quake that shook southern Peru and rocked Lima for a minute, said Luis Vilca of the Peruvian Geophysical Institute.

Army and police flew into Nazca scores of tents, hundreds of blankets and food after the quake destroyed 25,000 of the town's homes, according to Mayor Luz Torres Zegarra.

Most of the estimated population of 40,000 — left without light, water or working telephone lines — had hauled their belongings into the streets. Some knelt out in the cool night and prayed for an end to the aftershocks.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake measured 7.3 on the Richter scale and its epicentre was 65 miles (100

km) southeast of Ica.

John Minch, geophysicist at the National Earthquake Information Centre in Golden, Colorado, said the quake occurred at noon local time (1700 GMT) Tuesday.

"It was intense. We had to fly — all of us. The roof of our house practically fell on top of us. There's so much damage," said a devastated Adrian Contreras.

Officials said they believed Tuesday's early reports were false that 300 workers were trapped in an underground mine at the "Huancá" gold mine, 310 miles (500 km) south of Lima, on the border of the southern departments of Ica and Ayacucho.

"Earlier we had reported 300 trapped but this now appears to have been one of the many false alarms of the day," said Jorge Rodriguez, a police doctor in Ayacucho.

Col. Lucio Corporea, a civil defence official in Lima, said rescue workers had not arrived at the mine. However, the latest information indicated that only 30 miners were injured in the area in a bus crash after the highway split open.

But Col. Corporea said it would not be possible to confirm definitively that there were no trapped workers in the mine until around 6 a.m. local time (1100 GMT), when the first helicopters were

expected to reach Huancá.

Five of the deaths caused by the earthquake, occurred in Nazca, where 40 per cent of the houses suffered serious damage. Two children and one teenager died from head wounds caused by falling debris and two men were killed when a landslide demolished homes in one of Nazca's many shanty towns, according to army Gen. Rolando Quezada.

A man in neighbouring Ica died of a heart attack brought on by the earthquake, Col. Corporea said.

In Acari, near Peru's second city, Arequipa, 640 miles (1,030 km) south of Lima, a 60-year old woman died in the quake, Col. Corporea added, without giving more details.

In Nazca, medical staff attended a further 120 injured people, 40 of whom were still in a serious condition, added Fermin Caceres, director of the Nazca Hospital.

Jose Amado, 62, who lay in a hospital bed with a fractured leg, said he had grabbed his three daughters and dragged them out of their house just before it collapsed into the street. "This is the second time I've only just got out of a quake alive," he said, adding his father had saved him from a falling building in nearby Acari more than 50 years ago.

## Elderly Indonesian man has lived in tree for seven years — report

JAKARTA (AFP) — A 67-year-old man has been living in a tree for the past seven years on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, a report said Wednesday. La Nene, of Warambe village, south-east Sulawesi, has been living in a cashew nut tree there for the past seven years, the Antara news agency said. The bearded, white-haired man set up a platform on the tree some 20 metres (66.3 feet) above the ground, covering it with an old mat. His wife and children regularly feed him, the agency said. It is my fate, the chain-smoking Nene told an Antara reporter from his platform when was asked why he has remained there for so long. Antara quoted La Tegi, 45, the man's eldest son, as saying his father climbed up the tree after he had a dream seven years ago and has not come down since. Tegi, however, said his father was sane and healthy in body and mind.

## Deer's revenge? Hunting takes toll on heart

NEW ORLEANS (R) — Deer hunting has always been hard on deer — but it takes its toll on hunters, too. The excitement of the hunt, coupled with the strain of activities such as dragging a dead deer over long distances, puts out-of-shape hunters in danger of a heart attack. Researchers at the American Heart Association's annual scientific sessions said Tuesday in New Orleans. In the Michigan-based study, heart monitors were worn by 25 male deer hunters, with an average age of 55. Seventeen had previously diagnosed coronary artery disease. During deer dragging, the hunters' hearts were beating at as much as 116 per cent of the maximum rate considered healthy for a person of their age. Shooting and hitting a deer sent heart rates rocketing to as high as 118 per cent of maximum.

## Scientists seek more cash to track asteroids

LONDON (R) — The earth could be hit at any time by a deadly asteroid, and governments should urgently fund more programmes to seek them out and find ways of destroying them. British and Australian astronomers said Tuesday. Scientists and amateur astronomers met in London to discuss the best ways to track the thousands of asteroids that pass close to the earth every decade. "People like to imagine that there are battalions of astronomers scouring the skies. There aren't," said Duncan Steel, an astronomer at Australia's University of Adelaide.

## German beer consumption continues long slide

BONN (R) — German beer consumption, which has been declining steadily in recent years due to health concerns, continued to slump in the first three quarters of 1996, the Association of German Brewers said Tuesday. Germans remain among the world's leaders in beer drinking, however, with a per capita consumption of just under 140 litres (30.8 imperial gallons) per year, leaving them trailing only the Czechs. A relatively cool summer hurt beer sales this year. Steadily rising unemployment in Germany, currently around 10 per cent, has also had a negative impact, as have increases in beverage taxes in many municipalities.

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## Khmer Rouge kill 5 soldiers

AKARTA (AFP) — An 80-year-old man hanging in a tree for over 10 years, a Khmer Rouge guerrilla, has been killed by five soldiers of the Cambodian government, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

The Khmer Rouge guerrilla was killed in a village in the north-west of Cambodia, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

Thousands of guerrillas in the north-west and south-west have since formally joined the government and donated royal armed forces uniforms, including long Sary's soldiers.

The hardliners are grouped around the town of Anlong Veng to the north of Siem Reap and close to the Thai border.

Military analysts believe the army will try and seize these areas in the November-May dry season.

The Khmer Rouge, blamed for the deaths of more than one million people during Pol Pot's brutal 1975-79 rule, signed a U.N.-brokered peace pact with rival factions in 1991.

They later reneged on the accord and have been fighting a coalition government formed after general elections in 1993.

## 'Black boxes' found after India mid-air crash

CHARKHI DADRI, India (R) — Searchers have found the so-called "black boxes" that might explain why two planes collided in mid-air near New Delhi, killing some 350 people, officials said Wednesday.

"We have recovered both the flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder," Indian Director of Air Safety V.K. Chandra told Reuters at the site where a Saudi Arabian Airlines jumbo plummeted to earth in flames.

"They look damaged, but we expect the insides to be safe and secure," he said.

The recorders from the other plane involved in the world's worst mid-air collision, a Kazakh Ilyushin IL-76 freighter, were found earlier in the day, Rajiv Bhaskar of Kazair said.

The two crash sites are some 10 kilometres apart on the north Indian plain 80 kilometres from New Delhi.

Mr. Chandra said the recorders would be taken to the capital for analysis.

He said the authorities had also sealed recordings made in the control tower pending the appointment of a judicial inquiry into one of the world's five-worst air disasters.

"We have sealed the recordings of the control tower. All that will be taken into account when a judge is appointed to begin the investigation," he said.

There were 312 people aboard the Saudi Boeing 747 and 37 on the Ilyushin chartered from Kazakhstan National Airways, known as Kazair. Most bodies have been recovered, many charred or mangled.

Bhaskar, the Kazair airport manager in Delhi, said the passengers on the IL-76 were businessmen who had chartered it for the flight to New Delhi, where they had planned to buy Indian goods and fly them back home.

He said they were carrying \$1.5 million in cash and intended to buy wool items, cheap in India, to sell them



Indian policemen carry bodies from the debris of a Kazakh Ilyushin IL-76 freighter Wednesday outside the Indian village of Charkhi Dadri (Reuters photo)

## Air disaster over India among worst on record

NEW DELHI (R) — The mid-air collision near New Delhi that killed 351 people is the worst involving two aircraft in flight and among the five worst airline disasters for loss of life.

Tuesday's collision involved a Saudi Arabian Boeing 747 jumbo jet and a Kazakh Ilyushin cargo plane. The previous worst mid-air collision was on Sept. 10, 1976, when a British Trident collided with a Yugoslav DC-9 over Zagreb, Croatia, killing 176.

Following are the world's worst aviation disasters, ranked by number killed:

583 — March 27, 1977 — 2 Boeing 747 airliners, a KLM Royal Dutch airlines plane and a Pan American jet, collided and burst into flames on the runway at Santa Cruz de Tenerife in the Canary Islands. 583 were killed out of a total of 644 on board both aircraft.

520 — Aug. 12, 1985 — a Japan Air Lines Boeing 747 crashed into Mount Oosutaka, killing all but four of 524 aboard.

350 — Jan. 8, 1996 — at least 350 people died when a Russian-built Antonov-32 cargo plane crashed into a crowded market in the centre of the Zaire capital, Kinshasa.

346 — March 3, 1974 — a Turkish Airlines DC-10 crashed into a forest northeast of Paris shortly after takeoff from Orly Airport. All aboard were killed.

329 — June 23, 1985 — an Air India Boeing 747 plunged into the sea off the Irish coast, apparently following an explosion. All 329 people aboard were killed.

301 — Aug. 19, 1980 — a Saudi Arabian Airlines L-1011 Lockheed TriStar jet caught fire at Riyadh Airport shortly before takeoff. All aboard were killed.

290 — July 3, 1988 — an Iran Air A-300 Airbus was shot down over the Gulf by the U.S. Warship Vincennes, which wrongly identified the airliner as an attacking fighter. All 290 people on board were killed.

273 — May 25, 1979 — an American airlines DC-10 crashed

after takeoff from Chicago's O'hare International Airport. All 271 aboard and two men on the ground were killed.

270 — Dec. 21, 1988 — a Pan American World Airways Boeing 747 crashed on the town of Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 259 people aboard when the plane was blown up by a bomb. Eleven people in the town of Lockerbie were also killed.

269 — Sept. 1, 1983 — a Korean Airlines 747 was shot down by a Soviet fighter after flying through Soviet air space near Sakhalin island. All 269 aboard were killed.

264 — April 26, 1994 — a China Airlines Airbus with 271 on board crashed and exploded while coming in to land at Nagoya, Japan. 264 people died.

261 — July 11, 1991 — a chartered Canadian DC-8 crashed during an emergency landing at Jeddah, which it had left minutes earlier on a flight taking Nigerian pilgrims home from Mecca.

257 — Nov. 28, 1979 — an Air Zealand DC-10 on a flight from Auckland to the South Pole hit Mount Erebus in Antarctica. All 257 aboard were killed.

256 — Dec. 12, 1985 — an Arrow Air DC-8 chartered by the U.S. military crashed after takeoff from a refuelling stop in Gander, Newfoundland, while bringing U.S. soldiers home for Christmas. All 256 aboard were killed.

230 — July 17, 1996 — Trans World Airlines Flight 800 exploded in a fireball over the Atlantic Ocean after taking off from Kennedy Airport, New York, en route for Paris.

223 — May 26, 1991 — an Austrian Lauda-Air Boeing 767-300 bound for Vienna from Hong Kong exploded in mid-air after a stopover in Bangkok and crashed in a jungle, killing all 223 aboard.

213 — Jan. 1, 1978 — an Air India B-747 exploded in mid-air and plunged into the Arabian Sea shortly after takeoff from Bombay's Santa Cruz Airport. All 190 passengers and 23 crew were killed.

## Violence rages on in riot-torn French Guiana

CAYENNE, French Guiana (R) — Roving gangs of youths roaming the city of Cayenne in French Guiana late Tuesday, burning tires and throwing Molotov cocktails, fire-towers, with explosions were heard at 10 p.m. local time (0100 GMT Wednesday). Smoke from burning tires entered into home blocks away from the centres of violence. Riot police countered with tear gas grenades, witnesses said.

Local state-owned radio said several rioters were seen with pump-action rifles. Some local journalists and photographers were attacked by the rioters in a new wave of violence in the French overseas territory on the northeast coast of South America.

During a first wave of rioting and looting last week, 40 rifles were stolen from a sports shop causing alarm in the population and government authorities.

Fresh violence erupted on Tuesday when a magistrate's court convicted them. Seven people arrested during rioting last week, witnesses said.

At the announcement of the verdict, bands of youths returned garbage cans, smashed store windows and attempted to charge the police court. Riot police fired several rounds of tear gas to disperse the crowd, which had massed in front of the courthouse all day.

Two hundred paramilitary police reinforcements were flown to French Guiana from Paris over the weekend. They supplemented local police who have been overwhelmed by the riots that killed one person, injured at least seven and caused millions of dollars of damage to government buildings and to

## More fishermen return 7 days after India cyclone

HYDERABAD, India (R) — Another 60 missing fishermen returned safely Wednesday one week after a powerful cyclone smashed into Andhra Pradesh state, officials said.

Their arrival brought the total to return to safety to 375.

But a relief official said about 925 fishermen were still missing and that 15 teams, aided by helicopters, were searching for them.

Fishing boats carrying 315 men reached safety Tuesday.

Officials had said earlier that they feared an estimated 1,300 fishermen might have died in the storm, which whipped up winds of 180 kph and tidal waves three metres high causing massive devastation.

Officials said the death toll in the two coastal districts of East Godavari and West Godavari rose to 855 as more bodies were recovered from remote villages.

Relief camps are sheltering 179,000 people whose homes have been destroyed or badly damaged, and medical teams are treating the injured, mostly for broken bones, and inoculating evacuees against waterborne diseases such as cholera.

Eric Jensen, of the Swiss-based International Committee of the Red Cross, said after surveying the scene by helicopter Tuesday: "The water level had come down dramatically, close to normal."

Prime Minister Deve Gowda called a meeting of government officials, banks and relief agencies for Wednesday in New Delhi to discuss ways of helping the cyclone victims.

The state government has estimated the losses suffered from the storm at \$3.75 billion rupees (\$1.5 billion) of which crop damages accounted for 44.43 billion.

The storm has damaged 353,000 hectares (847,200 acres) of paddy and 116,000 hectares (278,400 acres) of cash crops such as coconut, sugarcane, cashew nut and banana. Five million coconut trees, spread over 30,000 hectares have been destroyed or damaged.

## Some 'dirty war' groups still active, Spain says

MADRID (R) — Some of the death squads that killed 28 people in a "dirty war" against Basque separatists in the 1980s may still be active, Spain's interior minister said Wednesday.

"There are perhaps residues, perhaps some groups that are still active," Jaime Mayor Oreja said in a radio interview when asked about the kidnapping and torture last week of a key witness against the state in "dirty war" trials.

It was the first admission by the new conservative government that members of the security forces and hired gunmen who fought the illegal campaign are still at large.

The previous socialist administration's first interior minister and top civilian and military officials are on trial for setting up and funding the death squads that operated under the acronym of GAL (anti-terrorist liberation groups).

A protected witness who has implicated top civil guard General Enrique Rodriguez Galindo in the first two killings in 1983 was abducted last Friday, tortured with cigarettes and sodomised by attackers who told him to alter his testimony.

Mayor Oreja gave no further details and said it was too early to know whether members of the paramilitary civil guard were involved.

"Painfully graphic descriptions in the local press of the witness's ordeal have shocked Spaniards with the realisation that "dirty war" style attacks are not just a distant memory from the 1980s.

The incident has rekindled debate on the illegal campaign after the supreme court voted by six to four this month against questioning former prime minister Felipe Gonzalez, who denies charges by former associates that he authorised the "dirty war".

The new government itself has accused Gonzalez of having waged "bodeguilla terrorism" in reference to a wine-cellar in his official residence where he entertained friends and hatched strategies with his closest aides.

Mayor Oreja insisted in Wednesday's radio interview that the only real terrorist group at work in Spain today was ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) and said the separatist rebels were feared to be behind the disappearance Monday of a young Basque businessman.

"All the clues point to a kidnapping," Mayor Oreja said of the disappearance of businessman Cosme Delclaux, 34. "That's the most likely scenario."

Mayor Oreja said the apparent kidnapping confirmed there were no grounds to hope for a unilateral truce by ETA, which has staged only minor attacks in the last few months.

"We were witnessing some kind of mirage," he said of the lull. "There has been a mirage in some circles, but it's obvious that ETA is there."

The Basque separatists have killed nearly 800 people and carried out some 75 abductions in a drive for full independence begun in 1968. They are currently holding a prisons officer who was abducted 10 months ago.

Jose Maria Olarra, a leader of their political wing Herri Batasuna, was arrested late Wednesday and is to be questioned in court about a separatist demonstration held last year in violation of a Basque government ban.

## Heavy snow blankets U.S. great lakes, kills 10

CHICAGO (AFP) — Heavy weather brought heavy snow to parts of the northeastern United States Tuesday, killing at least 10 people, ripping power lines under 140 mph winds and snarling traffic in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and western New York, Czechs, a spokesman said.

They forecast more snow and heavy rain in the northeastern Ohio, western New York and western New York as strong westerly winds from Canada continued to blow across the region.

The heaviest snowstorms were in areas mainly east of Lakes Erie and Ontario.

Tom King, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Cleveland, Ohio, said the snow was caused by the so-called lake effect in which cold fronts from Canada feed on moisture from the lakes.

In the Cleveland area, particularly around Chardon, 20 miles (32 kilometers) to the east, more than 60 centimeters (two feet) of snow have accumulated since the weekend.

Authorities are warning the public that the heavy snow may cause roofs to collapse in some Ohio localities.

In Cleveland itself, many schools remained closed Tuesday and several areas were without power as heavy snow accumulation brought power lines down, Mr. King told AFP. Two planes skidded off the icy runway at Cleveland airport.

Authorities reported at least 10 deaths, most from traffic-related. Traffic snarlups were also reported across upper peninsula

Best wishes to

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### Celebrating sagacity

IT HAS become the tradition in Jordan to mark His Majesty King Hussein's birthday in more substantive terms than words, song and footage of moments in his life and progress under his leadership. Rather than making verbal expressions of their love and allegiance to their leader, more and more Jordanians are demonstrating their loyalty through tangible accomplishments. For his part, His Majesty traditionally seizes the occasion to show the true qualities of his leadership manifested in tolerance, magnanimity, compassion and respect for democracy and human rights. On the eve of his 61st birthday, the King pardoned hundreds of Jordanians implicated in the August unrest and others who served time in jail as an expression of his faith and confidence in the people. This is not the first time, in fact, that the King issues an amnesty on the occasion of his birthday; nor, we believe, will it be the last. The monarch's deep conviction in compassion has earned him national and international recognition and respect.

Against this backdrop, the most effective way to celebrate the King's birthday is to carry on with the constructive national dialogue that His Majesty has called for between ruler and people, and among the people themselves, on not only bread and butter issues but on the host of other challenges that face us. As the King stated repeatedly, positive dialogue requires the consideration of alternative solutions, be they on poverty, unemployment or on domestic and regional issues. Such a dialogue will succeed if only it identifies the problems facing the country and results in solutions. And that could be the best present we could present the King on his birthday. The art, or rather the blessing, of being enabled to listen to one another must be the one missing element in the current exchange of views between the government and the governed, and among our political parties.

Paying tribute to the King on his birthday would also call for recognising and appreciating the countless landmarks that have characterised his reign ever since his accession to the throne in 1953. The level of development and degree of progress that have been realised during His Majesty's rule testify to his sagacious leadership on every conceivable front. The preservation of national unity and the recovery of lost territory and water rights from Israel, that came with the conclusion of the 1994 peace treaty, must also figure high in the long list of achievements that Jordan has made. The Kingdom's respected place within the international community has been painstakingly acquired. The regard which this country commands from the community of nations and the high esteem in which it has been held by the peoples of the world are achievements for which the King deserves full credit. It is in this spirit that today's occasion has to be described and celebrated.

A very happy birthday, Your Majesty.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Dustour commented Wednesday on the official visitors to Jordan in the past two weeks, including the French president, the Indonesian president, the Turkish foreign minister, the speaker of China's parliament as well as the troika delegation, and said that the visits display some kind of solidarity with Jordan. The visits obviously aim at two things: giving impetus to the peace process on various tracks and bolstering economic relations between Jordan and the different countries, according to Taher Adwan. As to the first objective, the writer said, world community endeavours to end the deadlock in the peace process and pressure Israel into complying with the requirements of peace have ended in failure. Regarding the second point, he added, discussions on bolstering economic ties are in theory only and nothing has been translated into concrete actions on the ground. The writer said that moves at the regional and international levels, by Jordan and other countries, to achieve these objectives are useful but it would be better for Jordan and the Arab countries at large to forge real solidarity among themselves and embark on meaningful and practical steps to unite their economies and potential, making them capable of speaking the same language with regard to Israel and the U.S. in order to secure their rights and protect their interests.

### The View from Academia

## 61 years of common sense, moderation and consistency

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

IF ONE were to think of the fundamental qualities of the modern Jordanian state, what would one say? Well, many things, obviously. It is hard to pin down a dynamic, sophisticated and complex entity, small though it is demographically and geographically, to a few plain premises. However, since simplicity we must, three characteristics strike me as perhaps the most compelling of all: common sense, moderation and consistency.

These three qualities — masterfully engineered over the years by His Majesty King Hussein and indefatigably co-shouldered by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan — function both separately and together to form an overall firm and effective political vision (one which has worked for Jordan and could be a model for many to follow), and they are seen clearly at work in a host of issues, events and policy decisions.

Take, for example, Jordan's relation with the Arab World and the international community, during the time when both the Arab Nation (in the fifties, sixties and seventies) and the whole world (throughout the years of the cold war) were hopelessly and helplessly dichotomised and factionalised. Throughout these extremely uncomfortable decades of tension, friction, animosity and alliances of sorts, Jordan kept a reconciliatory attitude and a position as close as you can get to non-alliance and to the middle.

In the context of the Arab Nation, Jordan has always been a supporter of Arab solidarity. This we know. What many may not know, however, is that it has always done its best to resist joining this or that Arab country against another Arab country, fighting (at times desperately, helplessly and unsuccessfully) to keep itself in, and pull others to, the centre. Jordan's commitment, in other words, has been not to this or that Arab state but to the Arab Nation as a whole. In my opinion, this is true Arabism or Arab nationalism.

Also, in this particular context, when emotions were high in the Arab World and patriotic rhetoric was at its highest (and worst) Jordan was the voice of reason. Examples abound. The 1990 Gulf war is illustrative of Jordan's common sense and moderation. Throughout, it did not ally itself with any party, it insisted on an Arab-Arab solution to the crisis (a crisis which, by the way, has not been solved until now despite the costly, disastrous war and its unsettling, inhumane aftermath), and it insisted on a reconciliation of the Arab brethren. This was the right thing — the common-sensical, the reasonable, the moderate — thing to do.

Globally, during the decades cited above, Jordan (when

the world was factionalised into NATO and Warsaw, Communism and Capitalism, East and West) kept to its centrist position, maintained good relations with all (except those who got too troublesome and bothersome or those whom it was impossible to deal with), and conducted its daily business in a mature, confident, humble and low-key manner, living and letting live.

What has been far-sighted in Jordanian politics, then as well as now, is the ability to strike a balance (though not always easily and neatly) between the national Jordanian interests, Arab aspirations and ideals and the various demands and expectations of the brethren, and relations with the international community. Jordan has never failed to fulfill its tripartite commitments. It has not willingly sacrificed one to the other. It has never isolated itself or withdrawn in the name of any slogan or under any pretext. This must be recognised. When most countries, in the region or abroad, opted to focus on one or two, Jordan made it a priority to take care of the three together.

The same healthy attitude has always been entertained by Jordan with respect to Mideast peace. From the very beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict, until now, Jordan has asserted (insistently and consistently) peace for all in the region. It never sought to negotiate for itself, and it never was selfish, one-sided or blind in its demands and expectations. A statement from His Majesty's book "My Career as a King" clearly illustrates the reasonableness, fairness and common sense of the Jordanian position. The King says, quoting an Arab saying: "Peace is the outcome of common understanding (tafahum) not agreement (itifaq)." This is the right attitude, and the truth embodied in this saying is directly needed today when some parties to the peace process want either all or nothing. It is in this spirit that I understand President Clinton's description of His Majesty the King, during the meeting which was also attended by Yasser Arafat and Benjamin Netanyahu over a month ago, as a "wise" person and a "friend" of the peace process. Look also at Jordan's position on Jerusalem: it does not say (like some people) Jerusalem is totally "ours". Sovereignty over Jerusalem, the King keeps repeating, is God's.

Jordan's common sense, moderation and consistency is also reflected in its adoption of democracy. What is democracy? Well, many things, again. One way to look at democracy is to view it as a conciliatory, common-sensical system of governance aiming to find a middle-ground for extremes. In our own society, as well as in the Arab World at large, there are all kinds of opinions, beliefs, ideologies

and faiths (from the extreme left to the extreme right) — unlike what some of us assume, i.e., that we are all one nation sharing the same ideals, the same vision, the same strategies, etc. We are one nation, yes; but we also are a diverse nation, a pluralistic nation. How would you channel such diverse, oppositional and conflicting tendencies? Through a totalitarian approach? God forbid. I would say through democracy. Democracy may not be the best system there is, but under the circumstances it is. For one thing, it forces people who have differences and disagreements to sit together and talk, rather than fight it out in the streets.

The Jordanian society as a whole is a middle-ground society. The vast majority of people is neither totally conservative nor totally liberal, neither extreme and hardline nor lax and moderate, neither exaggeratedly capitalistic and materialistic nor exaggeratedly spiritualist and ascetic.

I would say that Jordan, on the basis of all the examples cited above, is consistent both diachronically (with respect to all issues at all times) and synchronically (with respect to all issues at any given moment). The same balanced, reasonable, practical and moderate attitude, position and approach have been adopted towards all the challenges of the times, since the establishment of the Kingdom.

And if Jordan has either been misunderstood or understood, it is because many in our part of the world have been (as we realise now), and still are, impractical, immoderate, inconsistent and lacking common sense. How can you make sense in a world in which there is a great deal of nonsense? This is not to say that those who understand Jordan and appreciate its philosophy are not on the increase. They are, and have been, especially over the last two decades. But the Jordanian philosophy and approach is still far from being fully understood and appreciated, which is somewhat sad.

I would also say (borrowing some terms from psychology) that Jordan — in its relation to itself, to its Arab brethren, to the international community, to peace with Israel, to Jerusalem, etc. — is not the id, not the superego, but the down-to-earth, conciliatory ego.

I cannot think of a better metaphor to describe Jordanian politics and the Jordanian society.

These attributes, I would conclude, have not come from a vacuum. They are a direct outcome of His Majesty's vision and tireless efforts for the past, well, 61 years. May he live many more at the helm of our country.

## Iran calls for concerted effort to help rescue Afghanistan

By Kamal Kharrazi

NEW YORK

Notwithstanding all mediation efforts in Afghanistan in the past few weeks, the situation has taken a turn for the worse. The peculiar relationship of the United States and Iran, among other considerations, has had an unsettling impact on Afghanistan since the civil war began in 1992.

It hurts Iran not only politically but also psychologically that Afghanistan continues, after almost five years, to be engulfed in chaos and senseless violence. Turmoil at Iran's eastern borders, the millions of Afghan refugees in Iran and the overall uncertainty associated with foreign intervention in Afghanistan give rise to considerable political concern in Tehran. The horror of Afghans killing Afghans is a source of pain for Iran, which is bound to Afghanistan by common religion, culture, language and history.

Iran's effort to promote negotiations, to abandon the use of force and to help set in place a mechanism for establishing a

broad-based government is public knowledge. Iran has pursued this policy on the premise that a stable and prosperous Afghanistan is not only overdue and deserved, but also in the best interest of Iran's national security.

On the other hand, several U.S. administrations have spared no effort in using U.S. diplomatic and financial influence to frustrate any positive result that may derive from Iran's mediation. This policy is justified in the context of the larger U.S. policy to attempt to isolate and contain Iran at all costs.

This is the strategic scheme of American foreign policy managers: If a semblance of security can be maintained in Afghanistan, then the proposition to build a gas and oil pipeline from the Central Asian republics through Afghanistan and Pakistan to the Indian Ocean gains credibility. By marginalising Iran in Afghanistan and by bypassing Iran as a route for an oil and gas pipeline, U.S. strategists assume they stand a better chance of containing Iran.

However, the fallacy of this scheme is twofold: (1) it presumes that peace and security can be maintained in Afghanistan by use of force in defiance of broad support from all Afghan groups and (2) it misperceives Iran's foreign policy objectives. Iran not only welcomes but also actively seeks a durable peace and security through a reasonable compromise among all factions and ethnic groups.

Even so, should Afghanistan provide a more feasible transit route from Central Asia to Pakistan and international waters, Iran certainly would not consider that a loss, but rather a positive step towards promoting economic development and strengthening stability in Afghanistan. Such progress would serve Iran's long-term interest in many ways, the most evident of which would be an expeditious, dignified and voluntary return of more than 1.5 million Afghan refugees.

Whatever faults Iran perceives in U.S.-Iran policy, inconsistency is surely not one. The United States has been

unfailing in its attempts to offset Iran's efforts to work with its neighbours near and far in the region to return peace and security and to promote economic development. Whether in Afghanistan, Tajikistan or in Azerbaijan and Armenia, Iran's efforts at conciliation for political settlement of disputes invariably have faced overt and covert U.S. sabotage.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a stable and independent country striving to fulfill its share of responsibility to promote regional cooperation, stability, economic development and prosperity. Sadly, however, the results of the U.S. policy toward Iran have been continued violence and bloodshed for the people of these trouble spots along with diminished opportunities to settle regional disputes. In turn, the credibility and "moral authority" of the United States have been damaged significantly.

The Afghans and other downtrodden people in the region are bound sooner or later to register their objection to becoming the innocent victims of the extraterritorial

application of U.S. hostility toward Iran.

The people of Afghanistan need urgent and effective international assistance to overcome the vicious cycle of violence that has entrapped them for so long. Mutually reinforcing efforts by all states concerned, the United Nations and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference still represent the only viable approach to the Afghan crisis. Iran welcomes any international initiative to stop the violence and preserve the political independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

In this context, Iran supports the U.N. initiative to convene an international meeting of states concerned with Afghanistan in the near future as a first step and believes the regional meeting on Afghanistan just held in Tehran can lay the groundwork for this U.N. initiative.

The writer is ambassador and permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

### LETTERS

#### Statistics that can help

To the Editor:

AS I was reading the "Pocket World in Figures", 1996 edition in the Economist, which rates 166 countries in every aspect imaginable, ranging from the number of cigarettes consumed in one country to the number of natural disasters in another, I came across figures regarding Jordan and which, I thought, could be of interest to some readers.

Jordan ranked: highest in population growth between 1985-93: 5.9 per cent real annual increase;

• 14th highest in foreign debt to GDP ratio 1995: 143 per cent i.e. \$6,500 million, (but for some odd reason did not show up in the highest in debt service ratio tables);

• 16th highest in receipts of foreign assistance per person 1995: \$77 (Israel was 2nd at \$241 per person);

• 4th highest in car accidents: 658 injuries per 100 million car-kilometres;

• 5th highest in household size: 6.3 people per housing unit;

• 45th highest in divorce rates: 1.3 divorces per 1,000 population;

• will rank 9th highest in average population growth, est. 1995-2010: 3.1 per cent;

• 44th highest in stock market absolute capitalisation 1993: \$4891 million;

• 30th highest in the growth of stock market value traded 1985-93: 745 per cent;

• 37th highest in economic freedom — a measure of how freely one can choose what to do for a living — (thus beating such countries as Turkey and Israel);

• 2nd highest in agricultural production growth 1980-92: 8.1 per cent real annual increase;

• 28th highest in marriage rates: 8.7 marriages per 1,000 population;

• 49th highest in nutritious calorie intake: 2,710 calories per person per day;

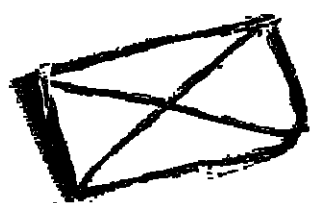
We should, after having read all these figures, concentrate on where Jordan can move either upwards (or downwards), which entirely depends on the will of the people and that of the government. A good starting point can be maximising the areas where Jordan has a comparative advantage, e.g., service, small to medium industries, speciality products.

Ramzi Batarseh,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Handwritten signature: *Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh*





## Society on the Move

### First-time visits call for happy returns

the high-profile visits of Indonesian President Suharto and his wife, Tisno, to Jordan last week were the first time the Indonesian leader and his wife have visited the Hashemite Kingdom. The visits were the first time the Indonesian leader and his wife have visited the Hashemite Kingdom.

**ANY A COMMON TIE:** The Indonesian delegation included 40 officials and members of the press and 23 businesspersons. President Suharto was accompanied by his wife, Tisno, and their two daughters, Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana, 47, and Siti Hediya Rukmana, 37, who were not accompanied by their spouses. Both daughters run their separate private businesses and are much involved in social development work in their country. Mrs. Rukmana heads several foundations and associations including the World Association of Blood Donors, the Indonesian Red Cross and the Indonesian Association of Private Radio Stations. Mrs. Rukmana, who is married to Major General Brobowa, is the commissioner of the Jakarta Stock Exchange. The two women demonstrated their keen interest in visiting such Jordanian institutions as the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development and the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society. After all the official business was conducted, the delegation took Wednesday to visit the Dead Sea and Petra, and in the evening rested before their flight out of Amman today.

**NOT JUST POWER IN NUMBERS:** The Turkish delegation accompanying Mrs. Ciller, also on her first visit to Jordan, numbered 123 persons. While most of the officials and businesspersons were lodged at the Forte Grand Hotel, the 34 members of the Turkish press were put up at the legacy Palace Hotel. Mrs. Ciller brought along three ministers, H. Ufuk Soylemez, minister of state, Yalim Erez, minister of industry and trade, and Recai Kutan, minister of energy and natural resources. There were 48 men and one woman representing businesses, trade and commerce unions, 15 members of the Turkish Parliament (most of whom were members of the True Path Party (DYP), which Mrs. Ciller heads). The foreign minister was accompanied by her businessman husband Ozer Ciller, who does not always travel with her on visits abroad. Both Mrs. and Mr. Ciller, who took her name when the couple were married, wanted to make the trip together since he too had not been to the Kingdom before and was looking forward to visiting in the earliest possible occasion. Born in 1946, Dr. Ciller obtained a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Connecticut in the U.S. Later she conducted post-doctoral studies at Yale University, also in Connecticut. She returned home to teach, and became a full professor in 1983. Her political career began in 1990 and soared. Dr. Ciller first became deputy chairperson of the DYP, then won a seat in parliament, and then was named a state minister responsible for the economy in the cabinet of Sulayman Demirel. She became Turkey's first woman prime minister in June 1993. When Islamist Necmettin Erbakan became prime minister this summer, Dr. Ciller agreed to a coalition for the sake of "social reconciliation." The Cillers' two sons could not make it on this trip as they are both away continuing their higher studies in the U.S. Unfortunately, between the official meetings, lunches and dinners scheduled in their compact visit, there was no time to take in Jordan's famous sites. There will be a next time, the couple was overheard to say as they left town — we are told.



HRH Princess Basma accompanies Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana, and Siti Hediya Rukmana, daughters of Indonesian President Suharto, to Petra during Mr. Suharto's first official visit to the Kingdom (Reuters photo)

**CHIEF CONCERNS:** Over at the Royal Court last week, the bustle of work involved in the official visits from two Islamic countries was not the only subject being talked about. Another topic of discussion was Chief of the Royal Court Awn Khasawneh's re-election to the International Law Commission of the United Nations. That he scored the highest number of votes against formidable competition could be recognition of the stature of his current position and the influence Jordan has garnered at the world body. But, the question is how Mr. Khasawneh, an expert in international law, will be capable of juggling his heavy load of responsibilities here and the demands of the commission which meets a total of about three months out of the year in Geneva. Still, he has had some years of experience in wearing two hats before, when he was legal advisor to HRH Crown Prince Hassan and at the same time, a delegate to the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

**CV UPDATE:** On another diplomatic front, an Amman-based European ambassador takes on an additional role. Austrian Ambassador to Jordan Michael Stiglbauer was in Jordan last week when he presented his credentials as permanent representative of his government to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). UNRWA, which was previously based in Vienna, recently moved its headquarters to two locations: one in Gaza, the other in Amman. Since 1978 the assigning of permanent representatives from the UNRWA donor countries to UNRWA has been at best tricky. Some representatives were ambassadors to Austria, and others were ambassadors to the United Nations in Vienna. With the move of UNRWA to the region, representatives are now being gleaned from donor country diplomatic missions in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Amman. During the last two donor country meetings convened in Amman, there was a clear message from the Jordanian side that the Kingdom would prefer that UNRWA activities be covered by diplomats resident in Amman. With Dr.

Stiglbauer's appointment, that makes three ambassadors covering UNRWA from here. The other two are Japanese Ambassador Takayuki Kimura and Norway's Ambassador Tove Kijewski. Dr. Stiglbauer's tenure in Jordan is moving on to four years this February. How long he will continue in his, now, dual role before being reassigned to his next post, we do not know. He would only say that there are no firm plans for him to move as of yet. Jordan was Dr. Stiglbauer's first ambassadorship: he was deputy chief of mission in Austria's embassy to Moscow prior to coming to Jordan.

**WHAT A COINCIDENCE!** Incidentally, the ambassador was tickled to see a Jordan Times feature published yesterday on the discovery of a 5,300-year-old iceman. It just so happens that the director of the Institute of Prehistory of the University of Vienna, Professor Dr. Andreas Lippert, will be in Amman next week to present three lectures on this "unique archaeological find." Dr. Stiglbauer said in a letter he sent to the newspaper yesterday. Times and venues are Sunday at 3 P.M. at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Monday at 11 A.M. at the University of Jordan in Amman, and Tuesday at 6 P.M. at the Centre of the Friends of Archaeology in Amman, he was kind to inform us.

**DEFENDER OF THE PRESS:** The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists is presenting its International Press Freedom Awards next week to four journalists, "who have courageously provided independent news coverage and viewpoints under difficult circumstances." Of the recipients, who have, in the defence of press freedom, risked arrest, imprisonment, violence against themselves and their families, and even death, the CPJ this year honours Yusuf Jameel of India, Jesus Blancornelas of Mexico, Ocaik Isik Yurtcu of Turkey (who is

imprisoned) and Daoud Kuttab of Palestine. Mr. Kuttab, who was in Jordan earlier this week as a participant in the seminar sponsored by the International Press Institute, is director of the Institute of Modern Media at Al Quds (Jerusalem) University in Jerusalem. He has been writing regularly for several years for the London-based Middle East International. Mr. Kuttab, who is half Jordanian (his mother hails from Salt), wrote for Al Fajr in Palestine until it closed down in 1990 when funds dried up. Also a documentary film producer, he has been involved in human rights activities, and dialogue with Israelis. The awards ceremony will be held on Nov. 26 in New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Tickets to the reception/dinner, also billed as the CPJ's sixth annual benefit function, range from \$500 to \$2,500 a plate. The master of ceremonies will be NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw. Featured speakers include CNN's Christiane Amanpour, ABC News anchor Peter Jennings and CBS anchor Dan Rather.

**ON THE WAY TO AN MBA:** A news item in the local press last week may be a minor case of jumping the gun. The piece said that Lower House Deputy Ali Shatti of the Jordan Valley received his MBA in financial management from the University of Jordan. What in fact is the case is that last Monday, the deputy defended his thesis, and afterward the panel of examiners recommended some changes to the paper — a common requisite in this scholarship process. His professors believe it will take a month or so for Mr. Shatti (deputy for Balqa from the Ghor) to complete and submit the changes, after which he will officially be entitled to the degree in question. The young and ambitious deputy worked for the Ministry of Finance in Deir Alla before his election to parliament. During that period he began his higher education, first completing his BA in business administration, then moving on to graduate studies.

**AND NOW TO SPORTS:** It takes leather balls to play rugby, and it took some enthusiasts at the British embassy to get the defunct Jordanian rugby team back and kicking after a nearly 10-year dormant period. In fact next Wednesday the 10-member team and their coach head for Dubai to compete in the Dubai International Rugby Tournament. The team is being sponsored by Royal Jordanian, The British Bank of the Middle East, the Forte Grand Hotel and ARAMEX. Multi-talented team captain Martin Cronin, who is second secretary at the British embassy's political section and a member of the Acropolis Blues Band, says the other rugby players include five other Britons: one Irishman and three Jordanians. They are: Rupert Potter, vice consul, Leigh Culver, immigration officer, Allan Ayton, of the defence section, David Thomas, an archaeologist with British Institute for Archaeology, Simon Leech, a consultant with the auditing and management consulting giant Arthur Andersen, Farah Nushaiwat, an engineer, Fadi Haddad, an accountant with Amra Hotel, and Mohammad Al Fares, front desk officer at the Amra. Their coach is Air Attache Wing Commander Mike Sedman. Their training has included stiff competition against visiting British army and navy teams. While a win would be gratifying next week, the team will be happy to just reintroduce Jordan to international tournaments and make their mark.

Jennifer Hamarneh

## BOOK REVIEW

### Peering ahead

**The Middle East into the 21st Century: The Japan lectures and other studies on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Gulf crisis and political Islam**  
By Chibli Mallat  
Ithaca Press, Reading 1996, £35

SIDNEY SMITH urged us to "take short views of life, as far as dinner or tea"; and here, according to the title of his book, is Professor Mallat already peering into the next century, which is still some years ahead of us. In fact, however, in these half-dozen papers, based upon lectures delivered in Japan and elsewhere in 1994, he makes no confident forecast. He is rather in anxious search of some solution of two enduring conflicts, called "arcs of crisis" in the fashionable jargon, viz troubles in Iraq and Iran after the Gulf wars, and the Arab-Israeli collision in Palestine. He tries to "think them together."

Dismayed by contentions prevailing throughout the Middle East, from civil war in Algeria and Sudan to the "apathy and incompetence of Palestinian leaders and the reluctance, grudges and bad faith" of Israelis, and to "contradictions" in Iran, he seeks some "fluid" dispensation, some renunciation of "those old mammoth prerogatives of the state: boundaries, armies, territory" and a reversion of the domestic values which are the real concern of the individual. State sovereignty is not necessarily an absolute concept but may be measured on a scale of perfection or imperfection.

For Palestine (writing before the accession of Netanyahu) Dr. Mallat suggests the possibility of "an Israel for all the people living in the land," involving "civil rights for all, an Arab minister who is Israeli, an Arab high official who is Israeli, an Arab ambassador who is Israeli, so that some 20 per cent of the 21st century Israel will be in the hands of Jews." Some 20 per cent of the electorate of Israel, after all, is Arab. And an "inte-

grated bi-national state" should not be inconceivable. In Iraq, destabilised by Sunni-Shiite discord, and Kurdish complications, Dr. Mallat points out that international arrangements are already chipping away a sovereign power.

So the key is compromise. Some sort of federalism would enhance the rights of the citizens of the Middle East, conferring upon them, like the European Union, freedoms of movement, labour and economic integration. But in the meantime, such are "the frustrations of stranded and dejected peoples and ensuing violence" that it must be acknowledged that the states of the region are "not nearly ready" for any consummation of the sort.

As to Iraq, Dr. Mallat, himself a founder of the International Committee for a Free Iraq, speculates inconclusively about the chances of the collapse or overthrow of the fearful regime of Saddam Hussein, whether at the hands of the Iraqi National Congress ("best organised and largest umbrella group of opposition") or of some new tyrant of Takrit. His study on Iran is a scholarly analysis of the Islamic constitution and religious controversy, identifying "hiccups in the Leadership in Tehran, which have led to the back-peddalling on Ali Khamenei's claim to be the supreme marja".

The English style of these essays, as that last quotation exemplifies, is deplorable, and some of their academic stuffing about "prisms," "dynamics" and "parameters in equation" is incomprehensible. Without doubt, however, the author is a learned expert in Islamic law and a very thoughtful student of Middle Eastern politics since 1948, the various agreements of Cairo, Madrid, Oslo, Taba and the rest, and the resolutions of the United Nations. If he can no more see beyond dinner time than the rest of us, his studies are a substantial contribution to the peace process.

He adds an extensive bibliography and a helpful glossary of Arab and Persian terms — Middle East International.

A.R.H. Kellas

## Are you a nought-nine-nought or a four-one-nine?

By Charles Akin Ogunrinde

**LAGOS** — Despite the aggravations of economic hardship, violent crime and political repression, Nigerians are fighting back with their renowned wit and verbal dexterity.

To most of the world, for example, CNN is Cable News Network, the international news broadcaster based in the United States. But in Nigeria it also serves as a nickname for busybodies who preoccupy themselves with rumours and tall tales in workplaces and neighbourhoods.

The subordinate who curries the boss's favour by spying on colleagues, the housemaid who leaks her employer's secrets to neighbours and even the wife who discusses family problems freely are all described as CNN — as if they were gossips hired by the news organisation.

NADECO is "another adapted acronym: The original word is the short-form for the National Democratic Coalition, a pressure group that came alive in 1994 as a counter-force to military rule.

Because of NADECO's tough stance, Nigeria's military rulers tend to attribute all inexplicable disasters to the group, even when there is no evidence supporting a

link.

In turn, Nigerians mock the official penchant for blaming a social organisation for disasters and accidents. When sympathisers and peacemakers want to relax the tension after a

furtherance of their claims.

Nought-Nine-Nought (or 090) is the code for cellular telephones in Nigeria. When the device was introduced in the 1980s, the first set of young executives to use it saw the gadget more

**Nigerians have a way with words. They take official acronyms and popular phrases and add a little imagination and a twist of humour. The result often pricks pomposity and lightens the trials of everyday life**

minor road mishap or a quarrel between friends, they pacify the parties concerned by blaming NADECO.

Even when electricity or water supplies are cut off suddenly — a regular occurrence — laugh it off by shouting: "NADECO!"

The public gets back at the government's ineptitude in tackling inflation, poor infrastructure and crime by jokingly putting the blame on NADECO.

So pervasive is the joke that husbands who feel they are being kept waiting for food playfully accuse their wives of behaving like NADECO.

As a status symbol to show off, especially while riding their flashy cars.

These yuppie "Nought-Nine-Noughts" never missed an opportunity to announce their trendy numbers.

Although recession has turned cellular phones into a rarity, memories of the Nought-Nine-Nought era linger. The vogue, therefore, is to mock all forms of flamboyant behaviour — at the office or in restaurants, on the beach or even in places of worship — as evidence of the Nought-Nine-Nought syndrome.

Section 419 of the criminal code defines business crimes. For easy reference, suspects are simply described as "Four-One-

Nines." So the term has become a generic name for tricksters, impersonators, forgers and liars.

Adulterers and those who jilt their lovers are also commonly referred to as Four-One-Nines. The stigma is so great that honest Nigerians now avoid the numbers like a plague.

Bisi Bisi Ayeni, a pharmacist living in House 419 in a Lagos estate, prefers to describe her address as "the building on the right of House 418."

"How do you expect me to tell people that I am in House 419?" she says. "Don't you know what harm that could do to my prospects as a professional and, more personally, as a spinster? One may never find a suitor," she chuckles.

Hotel guests have been known to refuse Room 419. Customers have been reluctant to accept the 419 sequence in their car, phone or post-box numbers.

The Yoruba term for someone born abroad who later returns home, Tokunbo, also has a new meaning. It is a general prefix for the wide range of imported second-hand products. So there are Tokunbo cars and buses, Tokunbo televisions, and even Tokunbo clothes and shoes.

Stretched a little further, anyone who marries a divorcee is derided in secret

as having a Tokunbo (or used) spouse. If two divorcees marry, they become a Tokunbo couple.

The Family Support Programme (FSP), a welfare scheme introduced two years ago by the First Lady, Maryam Abacha, is another contributor to the public mirth.

The FSP is widely seen as a scheme designed to win women's support for the military regime.

By extension, Family Support is now the term for offering tips and bribes as a bait for prompt service in post offices, banks, tax offices and ports.

"Wein you carry?" is a pidgin English expression meaning "How much do you have on you?" The phrase has now become the household name for policemen.

It stems from the use of unauthorised checkpoints at which police halt motorists. Before they search the vehicle, they ask: "Wein you carry?" A driver failing to offer money in response is likely to be charged with a trumped-up offence.

Like the other popular phrases, use of the expression has been widened to include anyone who is greedy, exploitative or corrupt — Gemini News.

# Grammatically correct Arabic

By Jean-Claude Elias

WORD processing, accounting, drawing and E-mail have become very common computer applications, to me only those few, others still haven't reached the same level of popularity, although they have been on the market a few years now. Text-to-Speech software for instance is one such programme. It remains imperfect and rather difficult to use.

Brought to the world of personal computing six or seven years ago, the software lets the machine "read" out loud text that you are typing in or that already exists in a file, whether it is in word processing format or other. On the hardware side, all it takes is a sound card and a pair of good speakers, inexpensive items found on virtually any PC.

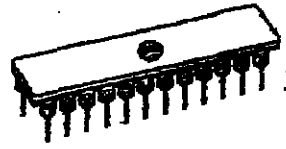
The software has been significantly improved in the last two to three years but it still has weaknesses, and speech is always delivered with some what robotic albeit intelligible voice. Nevertheless it works. I have tried the system several occasions, "asking" it to read long lists of figures I had entered in Excel and on which I needed to do some proofreading. It worked perfectly each time. Not only it saved me precious time but it relieved me from the stress of having to constantly look up and down from the screen I had in my hand to the screen in order to compare figures.

The importance of Text-to-Speech has recently taken a new dimension with the necessity to have it working on the Internet. Indeed, speech is an integral part of the possibilities offered by the Information Superhighway and being able to listen to words, sentences and text being read out, instead of having to read them yourself, is fundamental.

Although all Text-to-Speech software is based on similar algorithms (programming routines and methods) each package has its own requirements when it comes to the nature of its pronunciation and the cutting of words into syllables.

Arabic has always distinguished itself by giving software analysts and developers more headache than most languages. In Text-to-Speech more particularly it is possible to read Arabic correctly without the proper diacritics. Diacritics are the small symbols (shadda, ra, dharmma, etc.) that are placed above or under the letters in Arabic in order to comply its grammar. They become an integral part of the word and radically alter its pronunciation. They are to Arabic what the accents (grave, circumflex, aigu) are to French, although

## chip talk



this oversimplifies the question.

One learns the principles of grammar and therefore of diacritisation at school. But Arabic often is written without these diacritics, especially in personal and business correspondence, and in newspapers too. Reading the language correctly this way therefore is dependent on the skills of the reader who has to mentally, automatically place the missing diacritics in the right place before reading each word. Newscasters for example are particularly good (are supposed to be at least) at such an exercise, while common mortals like the writer of this column may make a mistake with every other word.

To provide acceptable Text-to-Speech in Arabic, automatic diacritisation therefore is an absolute prerequisite. Al Alamiah, also known as Sakhr Computers, seems to have achieved this hat trick. The company, with offices in most Arab capitals but mainly in Kuwait and Egypt, is a pioneer in the domain of computers Arabisation in all its forms. Sakhr was one of the first bilingual machines. Al Alamiah was also the first to offer acceptable Arabic OCR (optical character recognition) to its users in 1994.

The development of automatic diacritisation was a joint project with Lernout and Hauspie, a Belgian company specialising in Computational Linguistics. The developers have just announced that after ten years of work the system is currently operational with a precision rate of 95 per cent and that they expect to improve the figure to 98 per cent by the end of this year. The software can process 100 pages in 30 seconds.

As impressive and important as it may sound, automatic diacritisation is but a milestone on the road to another still elusive goal — the fully computerised translation of texts from and to Arabic.

# Newcomers lending a helping hand

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

TODAY WE welcome some newcomers onto our local scene. Newcomers that could, as some seem to believe, come to interfere with the way we live. Such assumptions are made judging by the public support that they have come to command in the short period of time in which they have existed. Two such newcomers are the satirical rag Abad Rabbo and the fast food joint McDonalds.

While the first verges on both the silly and the absurd, its satirical style and extensive coverage, in two languages, have made it one of the more interesting newspapers on offer. Because of this, it can only grow to become more controversial and even aggressive in its coverage in order to keep up with the public's expectations.

Our second newcomer has also managed to raise an eyebrow or two. While one part of the public has full heartedly supported the arrival of McDonalds in town, another part has come out strongly opposing such a thing, mainly for ideological reasons. Other reasons have to do with global consumerism and protecting the local fast food outlets. Ample evidence of interesting debates on this subject can be found on NETS's on-line community in Jordan.

It remains however, and in spite of all the controversy, something that we can learn to live with. We have after all got used to living with far more controversial and flamboyant things and incidents.

Another more ironic, but somehow more important, side to this little charade against the global consumerist culture and its deadly effect on the poor Jordanian consumer is that it takes something like the arrival of McDonalds to bring to our attention that we have been thus far consuming food stuffs deemed unfit for human consumption.

One such shocking statistic was that locally produced milk only managed to meet 60 per cent of McDonalds quality standards when they first considered using it to

## On Record



make milkshakes. Similarly, locally grown tomatoes were declared unfit for use in burgers because of their high content of cancerous pesticides.

Having realised this, McDonalds Jordan now imports most of its basic and raw foodstuffs from other countries in order to maintain and meet the strict standards the company has set for itself.

This then is the story of how what we justifiably call junk food will probably turn out to be one of the very few food items in Jordan that will in the long run prove fit for human consumption.

One little more thing has to do with an irritating feature at the junction of Abdullah Ghosheh and Mecca Streets. This is a placard supposedly quoting His Majesty King Hussein. It goes like this: "Man is the most expensive that we have."

It remains to be said that whoever was responsible for putting this folly of a translation from the Arabic original had better come out and make a public apology. People are most certainly not commodities whose value can be measured by how cheap or expensive they are. To all of us in this country, people remain a valuable asset. One to be educated, cultured and thrust into the world to compete on equal grounds.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### ARABIC WISE SAYINGS

"Get your own hands off me and worry not for me."  
Transliteration: Eedak anni wama alaik minni.  
Meaning: I can be all right, or I can manage without your impeding interference which takes the form ofceptive aid.

\*\*\*

"He dips water with a sieve."  
Transliteration: Beshel el-mayy bil-ghurbal.  
Meaning: He is a blockheaded person.

\*\*\*

"In every town build yourself a house."  
Transliteration: Bikel balad ebni lak bait.  
Meaning: Have friend; do good to others.

\*\*\*

"He eats the head of a snake."  
Transliteration: Biakol ras el-hayyeh.  
Meaning: He is a big cheat.

\*\*\*

"The house is our father's and strangers dispute it."  
Transliteration: El-bait bait abooni, wil-ghurb be'atouni.  
This is said when defending one's rights, especially her one's own rights in some inheritance is disputed.

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### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

"Would you talk very slowly."  
Hal tasmah bil-kalam bibot?

"What does that mean?"  
Matha ya'ni hatha?

"Excuse me, where's the toilet?"  
La tu'aakhithnee. Aynal hammam?

"Can you help me?"  
Hal yominoka musa'adati?

"Where did you come from?"  
Min ayna atayt?

"Are there any letters for me?"  
Hal tooiad rasa'el min ajlee?

"How do I get to the airport?"  
Kay fa ath'hab elal-matar?

"Could you order a taxi for me?"  
Hal tasmah betalal taxi lee?

\*\*\*\*

### LAUGHT-IT-OFF

"Dereen!" said the boss crossly, "I can never find what was in this system. What was it?"  
"The Biblical system, sir."  
"The Biblical system? What's that?"  
"Sack and ye shall find!"

\*\*\*

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the oldest museum in the world?
2. What is the deepest lake in Britain?
3. What was the biggest animal of all time?
4. Which was the worst earthquake in history?
5. Who was the shortest woman in the world?

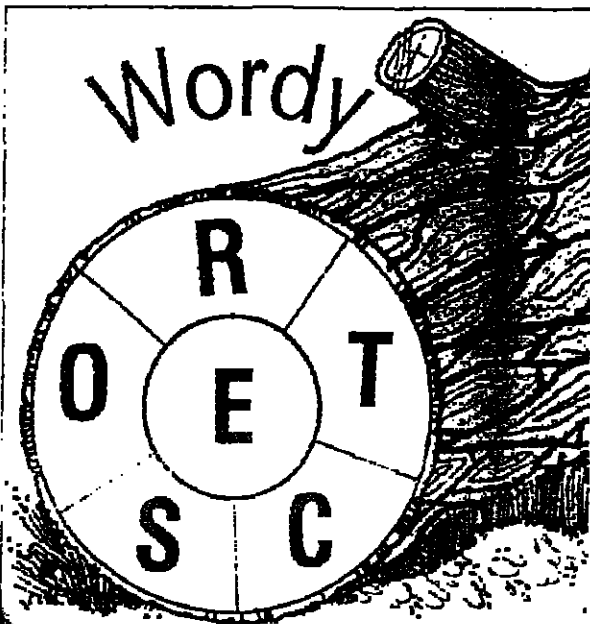
### PUZZLES

#### WORDY

Look at the illustration. Can you make 19 or more words of 4 or more letters here using the letter "E" in every word?

[No cheating — use a letter only in each word]

Good Luck.



## JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

### Thursday, November 14, 1996

1:30	Holy Koran	7:15	Magazine — Sports Et Musique
1:35	Cartoon (The Little Mermaid)	7:30	News Headlines
2:25	Feature — The Kid With The 200 I.Q.	7:35	Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
	Starring: Gary Coleman & Robert Guillaume	8:01	Auto — Classics
3:55	Varieties	8:30	Album Show
5:25	French Programmes	9:10	Great Books (Documentary)
	Entertainment Varieties	10:00	News In English
	Le Journal	10:30	Cover
7:00	Magazine — Atomes Crochus	11:15	Miami Vice
7:15	News Headlines	12:00	Yes Minister
7:30	Comedy		
7:35	She Will Take Romance.		
8:00	Variety		
8:30	Special Programme		
9:00	News In English		
10:00	Yanni (Music Show)		
10:25	Feature Film — Corn In Green		
12:00	Starring: Katherina Hepburn & Ian Saimour		

### Friday, November 15, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	7:30	News Headlines
2:05	Iris + Muppet Show	7:35	News Headlines
2:30	Play About + Flintstones	8:01	Rosanne
3:00	See How They Grow	8:30	Disaster Chronicle — Documentary
3:15	French Programme	9:10	Cinema, Cinema
	L'Ecole Des Fans	9:30	The Lazarus Man
4:00	Crystal Maze	10:00	News In English
5:00	News Flash	10:25	Best Seller
5:02	Name Your Adventure	11:15	Bodies Of Evidence
5:15	L'Ecole Des Fan		
5:30	French Programme		
	Magazine — Envoye Special		
7:00	Le Journal		
7:15	Magazine — Allo La Terre		
7:30	News Headlines		
7:35	Blossom		
8:01	Secret Weapons		
8:30	Hunter		
9:10	Virtual Reality		
10:00	News In English		
10:30	Feature Film — Dead Men Don't Die		
	Starring: Elliott Gould & Melissa Anderson		

### Saturday, November 16, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	7:30	News Headlines
2:05	Adventures Of Micky And Donald	7:35	Murphy Brown
2:30	Cirque/French	8:01	Magazine Zero One
3:00	French Programme	8:30	Encounter
	Document — La France Aux Mille Villages	9:10	Star Trek — The News Generation
3:30	Family Programme — Fete Des Bebes	10:00	News In English
4:00	Gillette (Sports)	10:30	China Beach
4:30	Chris Cross	11:15	Mission Impossible
5:00	News Flash	12:00	Are You Being Served?
5:02	Futures		
5:15	Blue Heelers		
6:00	French Programme		
	Serie — Jack		
7:00	Le Journal		
7:15	Magazine — Ziva		
7:30	News Headlines		
7:35	Something Wilder		
8:00	Documentary		
8:30	Prism		
9:10	Lois And Clark		
10:00	News In English		
10:25	Children Of The Dust		
11:15	Feature — Yes Giorgio		
	Starring: Luciano Pavarotti & Kahtryr Harrold		

### Sunday, November 17, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	7:00	Magazine — Sports Et Musique
2:05	Fievels Americans Tails	7:15	News Headlines
2:30	You Bet Your Life	7:30	The Four Seasons
3:00	Youth Programme — Cajou	7:35	Superstars Of Action
3:30	Entertainment — Week-ends Specialux	8:01	Challenges
4:00	World Echo (Documentary)	8:30	N.B.A. Basketball
4:30	The Famous Five	10:00	News In English
5:00	News Flash	10:30	Bugs
5:02	Our World Their World — Documentary	11:15	Hart To Hart
5:15	Search And Rescue	12:00	Who's The Boss?
6:00	French Programme		
	Magazine — Faut Pas Rever		
7:00	Le Journal		

### Monday, November 18, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	7:30	News Headlines
2:05	Muppet Show	7:35	News Headlines
2:30	Dad's Army	8:01	Rosanne
3:00	French Programme — Varieties	8:30	Disaster Chronicle — Documentary
3:30	Document — Travelling Gourmet	9:10	Cinema, Cinema
4:00	Nature's Inventions	9:30	The Lazarus Man
4:30	Hey Dad	10:00	News In English
5:00	News Flash	10:25	Best Seller
5:02	Destiny Ridge	11:15	Bodies Of Evidence
6:00	French Programme — Magazine		
	Science — Cinq Sur Cinq		
7:30	News Headlines		
7:35	News Headlines		
8:01	Rosanne		
8:30	Disaster Chronicle — Documentary		
9:10	Cinema, Cinema		
9:30	The Lazarus Man		
10:00	News In English		
10:25	Best Seller		
11:15	Bodies Of Evidence		

### Tuesday, November 19, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	7:30	News Headlines
2:05	Budgie	7:35	News Headlines
2:25	Oscar's Orchestra	8:01	Rosanne
2:40	I Love Lucy	8:30	Disaster Chronicle — Documentary
3:00	French Programme — Sciences Cartoon	9:10	Cinema, Cinema
3:15	Magazine — Montagne	9:30	The Lazarus Man
4:00	At The Zoo	10:00	News In English
4:30	My Secret Identity	10:25	Best Seller
5:00	News Flash	11:15	Bodies Of Evidence
5:02	Fun With Physics		
5:15	Road To Avonlea		
6:00	French Programme		
	Serie — La Lumiere Des Justes		
6:15	Magazine — Extra Large		
7:30	News Headlines		
7:35	Murphy Brown		
8:01	Magazine Zero One		
8:30	Encounter		
9:10	Star Trek — The News Generation		
10:00	News In English		
10:30	China Beach		
11:15	Mission Impossible		
12:00	Are You Being Served?		

### Wednesday, November 20, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	7:00	Magazine — Sports Et Musique
2:05	Muppet Show	7:15	News Headlines
2:30	Circus	7:30	The Four Seasons
3:00	French Programme	7:35	Superstars Of Action
	Jeu — Pyramide	8:01	Challenges
3:30	Serie — Les Compagnons De L'Aventure	8:30	N.B.A. Basketball
4:00	Documentary — Earth Revealed	10:00	News In English
4:30	Blizzard Island	10:30	Bugs
5:00	News Flash	11:15	Hart To Hart
5:02	The Adventures + Kelly	12:00	Who's The Boss?
6:00	French Programme		
	Document — Ushuaia		
7:00	Le Journal		
7:15	Magazine — Sports Et Musique		
7:30	News Headlines		
7:35	The Four Seasons		
8:01	Superstars Of Action		
8:30	Challenges		
9:10	N.B.A. Basketball		
10:00	News In English		
10:30	Bugs		
11:15	Hart To Hart		
12:00	Who's The Boss?		



## RENDEZVOUS WITH ART

**When art becomes an instrument of cross-cultural understanding**  
The Hond & Hamer travelling art exhibition draws on the power of 'shared experiences' and 'cultivated camaraderie' among human beings to transcend the traditional and divisive borders imposed by politics, geography, nationality, ethnicity and religion

By Mahmoud I. Mufti

**WHAT HAPPENS** when twenty-four accomplished artists work together, live together and inspire each other for a whole month, in the context of a graphic workshop in Eindhoven, Holland? — One's imagination may run in a multitude of directions when attempting a conjecture of such a scenario. One thing remains inescapable, however: the exhibition's unapologetic approach to ethnicity and non-Western artistic talents.

The exhibition, organised by the Arctic Foundation and entitled "Art in Cultural Transmission," is hosted by the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, and was opened by Her Majesty Queen Noor last week. It involves artists from Holland as well as from Greece, Lebanon, Curacao (a Caribbean island under Dutch rule), Chile, Spain, Iraq, Vietnam and Indonesia. Before visiting Jordan, the exhibits (mostly installations) were displayed in Holland, and will next go to Sharjah in the UAE, concluding in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The artworks in this exhibition make no pretenses at falling into any particular category of art. They conform neither to Western art entirely, nor to the expectations made of the art of Third World countries. They express different facets of the 'human condition,' and do so with little concern of how the resultant work is going to be categorised.

"We, Africans, Asians and South Americans have to create Western civilisation as the barbarians created Christianity. Do not be con-

cerned, for I am convinced that the result will not resemble Western culture to any high degree," says participating artist Gerardo Mosquera. Another artist adds: "From our point of view, the factor that the West has been the main stage of modernisation does not make Western studies of the West anything more than what they are: local histories employing local methodologies."

If the above remarks hint at a sense of defensiveness vis-a-vis Western Art & Culture, the truth is closer to the notion of 'self-awareness.' In a recent press conference, the gallery's executive director, HRH Princess Wijdan Ali expressed that "The idea of this exhibition is actually quite unusual and new, in that it involves an exhibition from the West, visiting non-Western regions. But it should be noted that contemporary modern art is not specific solely to the Western art-scene. With the advent of sophisticated global communication, countries of all cultural, sociological, philosophical and creative orientations have been able to learn and be influenced by one another. It is sometimes the case that artists of the so-called 'Third World' are actually manifesting more courage and innovation in their artistic undertakings than their long-established and experienced counterparts in the West."

Commenting on the relevance of an exhibition of this to Jordanian society, Her Royal Highness said that "There has certainly been increased interest in art in general among lay members of the Jordanian public, though we are par-

ticularly interested in contributing, through activities of this sort, to the nurturing of the creative element among local school children, of both public and private schools; their artistic sensibilities at an earlier age are particularly receptive to new ideas that can hopefully invigorate their own sense of the aesthetic."

The aims and goals of the travelling exhibition, explained its curators (Mr. Bert Hermens and Mr. Monkith Said), include the introduction to several non-western countries the idea of cross-cultural relations, and the provision of the opportunity for discussions with the artists of these countries about the results and the ideas of the workshop that gave rise to the exhibits.

In each of the countries hosting the exhibition, a local artist is selected to display his/her works with the other exhibits, with no restrictions on style or artistic genre, though most of the works tend to comprise large prints (etchings, lithographs, etc.) and installations. The curators add that "the idea of the workshop was to create new forms of art that have elements from different cultural backgrounds that cannot be categorised only according to Western or non-Western standards."

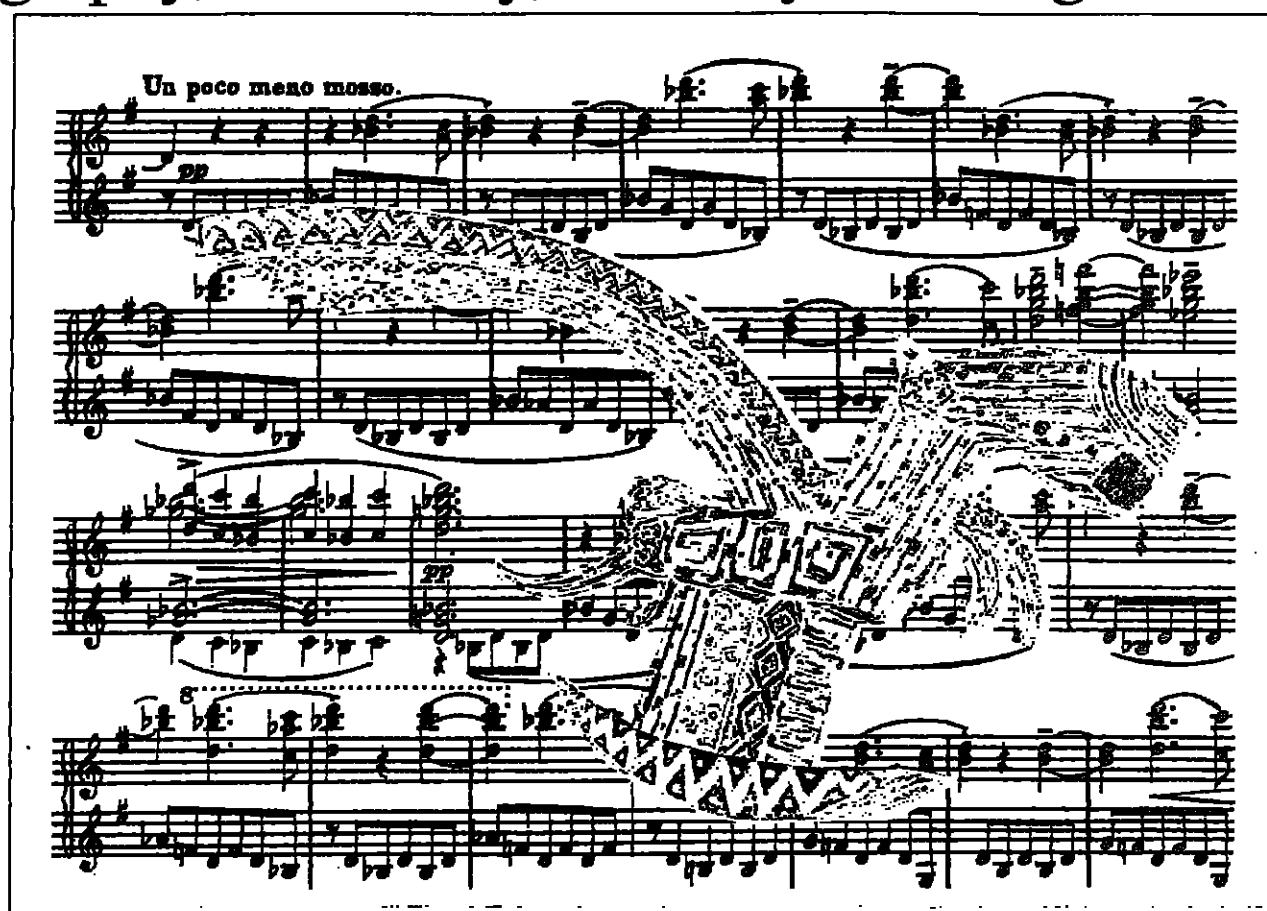
Ironically, most of the participating artists are Western, from the Netherlands specifically. These include: Waldo Bien (Den Haag), Marilyn Dunker (Willemstad, Curacao), Pieter Alewijn (Eindhoven), Andre Boone (Akersloot), Bert Hermens (Eindhoven), Jack Mensink (Sittard), Edu Kisman (Doetinchem), and

Danielle Lemaire (Prisenbeck). The remaining artists are non-Western, and include: Monkith Said (Baghdad), Vinh Phuong (Lamdong, Vietnam), Eleonora Grandentahler (USSR), Chorch Feyzjou (Tehran), Krikor Momdjian (Beirut), Mariano Maturana (Santiago), Charly van Rest (Jakarta), Maria Papadimitriou (Athens), Elias Marmaras (Athens), and Manel Esparbe Gasca (Barcelona).

The underlying theme is that the exhibition serve as a melting pot of cultures, aiding in changing mentalities along with artistic expression. The envisioned outcome is the increased mutual tolerance between artists and the public. Indeed, the main goal was to hold the workshop under the motto "we want to learn from each other."

It is important to stress the fact that the artists working with the Arctic Foundation do not see art as a "decoration of life and houses. It is about changing the mentalities of both Western and non-Western cultures to accept to 'give and take' and experience in a philosophical method with the ideas and concepts of other cultures."

The installations in the exhibition are mostly very simple in their outward appearance, though presumably more sophisticated in their conception: framed footprints in ink, a large metal-sheet jacket, 16 unframed paintings hung like flags, painted paper shopping bags, cardboard tents covered with blankets and arranged like military barracks, small etchings on embossed paper enclosed in gateaux-boxes, and various large etchings, etc.



One of the exhibits by Dutch artist Andre Boone

demographic borders in an attempt to rekindle the 'human element' which so often seems to be marginalised through the ravages of war, rampant poverty and other conditions of mass affliction.

The exhibition's co-curator, Mr. Bert Hermens explains the sociological backdrop against which artists become particularly receptive to each other's cultures: "The Western idea of salvation has lost its credibility. It is only natural that Western artists should start exploring the world. Philosophy lends a helping hand: the attempt to

reassess Western standards and values can be seen as a positive effect of fading post-modernism. Centric thinking, hierarchical as it is by nature, is on the way out. The relation between nature and culture is being reinterpreted and histories are being rewritten.

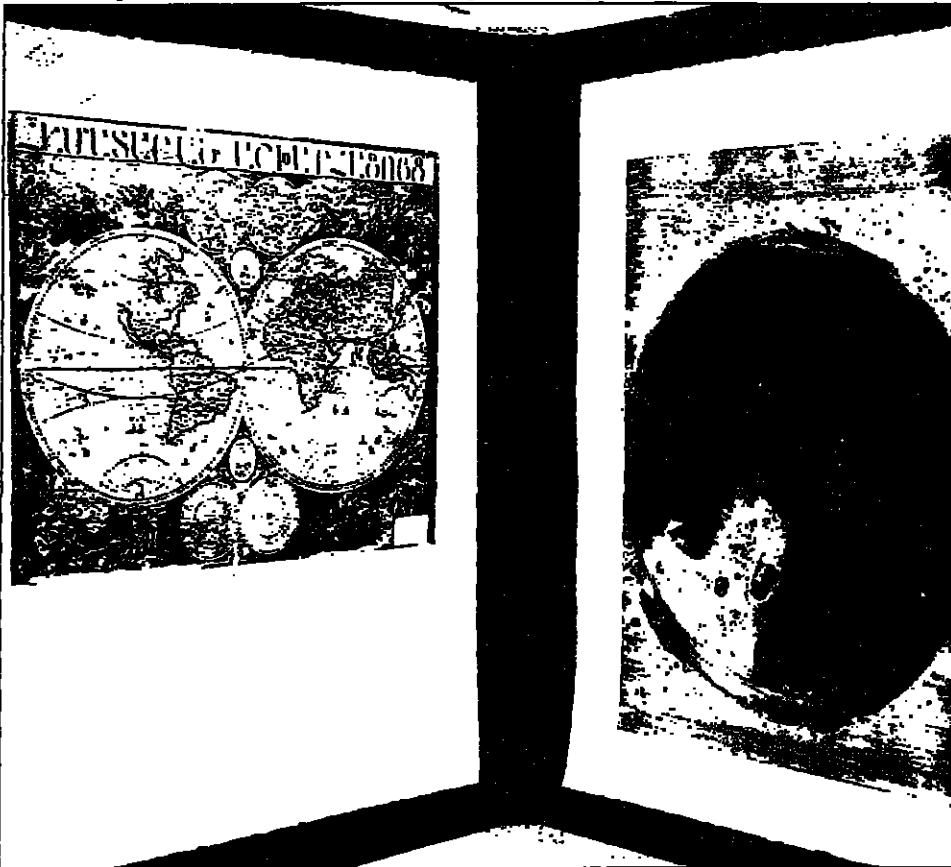
During prolonged stays in foreign civilisations, artists are confronted with different attitudes to life and different relationships with nature and objects. They have access to various religious perceptions. The totally different socio-economic and political circum-

stances also give cause for reflection. An exceptional situation is gradually developing. The presumed superiority with which the West used to interpret the changes that foreign cultures had brought about, is no longer respected. Under these changed circumstances, artists have learnt to accept each other's personal and cultural equality.

In modernism, influences from cultures other than one's own were visualised by means of borrowed imagery and techniques. What is taking place nowadays, however, is a process

of spiritual change. Individual cultural identity is put in perspective when the love and knowledge of one's own culture is confronted with influences from other communities. People realise that when something is relinquished, there is always something of value that takes its place. That is what we understand by cultural transmission."

The Hond & Hamer exhibition is held at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts (Tel: 630128), Jebel Luweibdeh. It closes on November 30.



One of Lebanese artist Krikor Momdjian's works currently on display at the Jordan National Gallery

One of the participating artists, Mr. Monkith Said (also co-curator), explained that some of the materials and ideas for the installations were taken from non-obvious (but common) everyday things around us. This approach has the potential of serving the exhibition's objectives well by demonstrating that art can be realised using the simplest of things. It therefore comes across to lay people — and especially children — as more graspable and attainable, since a lot of the material used can be obtained with very little expense by children.

Last year's visiting exhibition (April 6 - May 1st, 1995), also at the National Gallery, was highly successful. Entitled "The Right to Hope," it featured art from mostly southern countries of the world; it deeply moved concerned Jordanians by highlighting the need — through the artistic depictions and installations — to transcend traditional political, geographic and



La Agonia Del Conquistador by Chilean artist Mariano Maturana

## Norway's anguished face causes legal confusion

By Belinda Goldsmith  
Reuters.

**OSLO** — The harrowing creature shrieking in despair in Norway's most famous painting, *The Scream*, is at the centre of an international tangle over copyright.

Edvard Munch's 1893 masterpiece, depicting an embryonic figure screaming beneath a blood-red sky, has fallen into a 20-year time gap between copyright laws in the United States and Europe.

"The Scream is almost like an icon now and is used all over the world in advertising and cartoons," Per Boym, director of the Munch Museum in Oslo, told Reuters.

"The curving body of the figure giving no hint of gender, very clearly represents the modern man, without a God, the lonely individual, and has become an expression of the 1990s."

But since copyright restrictions were lifted in America, the volume of adverts and products flooding into Europe featuring *The Scream* without copyright approval from licensees, the Munch Museum and Munch's family, has increased sharply.

Norway's Visual Artists' Copyright Society (BONO)

and sister groups overseas have since 1994 clamped down on blow-up Munch figures, postcards of the screamer smoking a joint, and a range of Scream goods — none with approval.

The latest battle is against a pillow featuring the screamer with a voice box which guarantees 3,000 screams.

"We can stop the use, confiscate the goods and claim compensation for any damage or loss of moral rights," said BONO's chief executive Harald Holter.

"We estimate that now *The Scream* is the most widely used work of art after the Mona Lisa. Its expression is very easy to use for advertising companies, but it can also be misused."

Formal approval for using *The Scream* commercially is given sparingly, with only some 1.6 million Norwegian crowns (\$240,000) raised from its use each year.

Approaches by drug companies wanting to use the work in anti-depressant adverts have been refused, as have requests from political parties.

Holter said his group and other copyright groups internationally were seeking to harmonise the global laws on copyright, lobbying for the United States to fall in line with the EU, which set the 70-year restriction last year.

Until then, he said, action would have to continue to be taken against the increasing unapproved use of *The*

*Scream*. Holter said the 1994 theft of the painting, valued at £48 million (\$30 million), from the National Gallery in Oslo seemed to have fired even more interest in the work.

Thieves snatched the painting in the space of a minute on Feb. 12, 1994, opening day of the Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, by climbing a ladder, smashing a ground floor window and cutting the painting from the wall.

The picture was recovered undamaged three months later and the thieves were caught after British agents from Scotland Yard's Arts and Antiques Squad posed as potential buyers from the John Paul Getty Museum in California.

Four men were jailed for the theft earlier this year.

But it was a cheeky calling card left behind by the gang, saying: "Thanks for the poor security," that left the National Gallery red-faced.

"We have nothing more to say. Everything has been said in the press," said gallery spokeswoman Bodil Sorensen.

Security at the gallery has now tightened. Guards with earpieces and walkie-talkies patrol the gallery at all times with one permanently stationed by *The Scream*.

The heavy wooden entrance doors have been fitted with electronically-controlled security locks and all windows replaced with stronger glass.

"We make no comment about our security," said Sorensen.

Although lauded in the 20th century, *The Scream* was not appreciated when it was first shown.

It was part of a series by Munch called *The Frieze of Life*, which was exhibited in Berlin in 1893 but caused a major scandal and labelled "an insult to art."

After one week the exhibition was closed.

"It was looked upon as uncivilised and pornography," Boym said. "Munch was seen as a bad painter by the public and was laughed at, but in artists' circles he was much admired."

It was between 1902-1909, when working in Germany, that Munch became famous as an artist.

Made edgy by city life and drinking heavily, he suffered a nervous breakdown and, after treatment, returned to Norway where he spent the rest of his life living at Skoyen, just outside Kristiania, his childhood home.

Munch died from pneumonia in 1944 at the age of 80.

In his will Munch left his money to his family and to a foundation for needy artists, but bequeathed all his work to the city of Oslo.

The Munch Museum was opened in 1963 with a new wing added between 1992-94 and holds 1,150 of Munch's estimated 1,800 paintings, 17,000 prints, and up to 7,000 drawings.



# Vaccines from plants near commercial production

By David Welsh

U.K. SCIENTISTS developing a technique to produce medically-useful peptides and proteins in plants and extract them to create vaccines and therapeutic products believe the system is nearing availability for commercial production.

The Chimeric Virus Particle (CVP) platform technology, patented by Axis Genetics, produces oral human and veterinary vaccines and immunotherapeutics from plants. It is now entering new phase of development at the Cambridge laboratories where the company, a world leader in this field, is poised to expand its peptide pipeline, based on the genetic engineering of plant virus particles.

The technique involves inoculating young plants with a chosen plant virus which has been modified by genetic engineering to express immunologically active peptides on its surface. Left in heated rooms for 21 days, the modified virus multiplies in the growing plant to produce high yields of virus particles which are relatively easy to extract and each of these bears multiple copies of the peptide or protein of interest on its surface. Once purified these can be used as a conventional injectable vaccine.

Axis Genetics is now beginning to scale up procedures for extracting and purifying the CVPs produced in the leaves of the plant "crops" in preparation for clinical trials.

According to Axis the genetic engineering of plant viruses

es to present immunologically active peptides in this way is a "quantum leap" and the company expects a wide range of novel human and veterinary health care products to result within the next decade. The fact that the virus particles expressed by the plants are stable at body temperature and survive both exposure to acid and digestive enzymes also opens up the exciting possibility of their eventual use as oral vaccines.

## Transforming breakthrough

Such a breakthrough could transform vaccine delivery: purified particles could be administered orally or plant material, containing particles, could be used as the basis of a range of edible vaccines against life-threatening or disabling diseases.

Axis has already concluded a number of research agreements. Negotiations are also well advanced for strategic alliances with several major pharmaceutical companies which are keen to unlock the potential of their own promising but undeveloped peptides for the first time by harnessing the novel Axis CVP platform technology.

Among current collaborations, research with the Institute of Animal Science and Health in the Netherlands and The State Veterinary Institute for Virology in Denmark and Parvovirus, an important disease of domestic dogs and cats, is

making significant progress. A project with Britain's Institute of Animal Health on the Foot & Mouth Disease Virus (FMDV) that affects agricultural livestock offers another strong prospect of success. This work is designed to produce a vaccine which does not use the live virus itself, thus completely eliminating the major danger of disease outbreaks caused by the present FMDV vaccines.

Research is also underway with Warwick University on a novel approach to an AIDS vaccine. Designed to give protection against variants of the HIV virus, this is based upon a mixture of several types of viral particles each of which is designed to stimulate the immune system to produce antibodies. These are designed to protect against variants of the HIV virus.

## Fungal infections

In the area of immunotherapy Axis is working closely with the Loyola School of Medicine in Chicago on a novel way to combat fungal infections. This is a particular problem for AIDS patients and those receiving chemotherapy for cancer. The new approach is likely to be compatible with existing treatments which currently tend to be only partly effective. Other work with the University of Oxford covers new research work on an immunotherapeutic approach to the treatment of colon cancer.

The patents held by Axis for CVP technology are expected to dominate world production of peptides and proteins as chimeric plant virus particles. One form of the technology, known as EPICOAT, was initially developed by Purdue University in the United States and the U.K.'s John Innes Centre. A small part of a foreign protein (a peptide) is inserted into a virus in such a way that it remains exposed on the surface of the particle. The exact point of insertion is crucial if the virus particles are to assemble correctly and the virus to replicate normally while the peptide continues to be exposed on its surface.

By altering an otherwise natural virus, specific host plants can be used to propagate large quantities of CVPs. Current developments centre on cowpea mosaic virus which infects the cowpea plant or "black-eyed" bean, the shape of which can accommodate 60 copies of the peptide.

OVERCOAT technology — the use of the CVP technique with rod-shaped plant virus particles, was invented by scientists at the Scottish Crop Research Institute and enables much larger polypeptides or proteins to be presented. CVPs have been produced which present over 1000 copies of proteins at least 350 amino acids in size. The technology has potential for producing certain vaccine types and also for producing pharmaceutical or industrial proteins — London Press Service.

## Radiation helps rats recover from spine injuries

By Joanne Kenen  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — X-ray therapy has helped rats partly recover from paralyzing spinal cord injuries, raising new hopes for an eventual treatment for injuries that could paralyse a human, a researcher said Monday.

Severe spinal cord injuries were traditionally thought of as incurable but there has been a spurt of research recently that has fed once unimaginable hopes of a cure.

Developments in the laboratory have been matched by heightened public attention partly because of the paralysis of Christopher Reeve in an equestrian accident. Experiments on humans are probably at least two years off, according to neurology

researcher Nurit Kalderon of Memorial Sloan-Kettering in New York. But she said she was "confident" that the concept, once it was fine-tuned and adapted for humans, held hope of therapeutic breakthroughs.

The treatment is aimed at new injuries and will probably not help people, like Reeve, who are already partly or fully paralysed because of severed or crushed spinal cords.

"There's a window of opportunity, and the timing is important," she said, adding that in rats, the critical moment appears to be 17 or 18 days after the injury.

Scientists have learned that right after the spinal cord injury, the body does try to heal itself. But then something, activity by a specific kind of cell, interrupts that healing.

"You start with a very nice recovery and then it goes downhill. We know from the pathology, you see pockets of decay," around the spinal injury, said Dr. Kalderon, whose findings appear in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Kalderon used radiation therapy on rats to kill off specific cells that promote decay and interrupt the healing, much like radiation is used to kill cancerous tumour cells without destroying all the healthy surrounding tissue.

Once the X-rays killed the targeted cells, the regeneration and recovery continued, she said.

The rats did not completely recover all movement and muscle function, but the torn nerve fibers did grow across the site of the injury and neurological examination showed response in

up to three of the five muscles tested.

The rats were also able to support their body weight on their rear legs, said Dr. Kalderon.

Dr. Kalderon said she believed humans would fare even better because they would also have rehabilitation training, physical therapy and old-fashioned willpower.

"Some people can dance better than others, and that's because of the brain. All this activity, it's the will and how you control it," she said.

In a landmark study this summer, researchers at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden also showed they could promote nerve regeneration by building microsurgical "bridges" over a gap in an injured spinal cord. Those rats regained some ability to move their limbs.

## Oestrogen helps bones, but raises cancer risk

CHICAGO (R) — Post-menopausal women who underwent hormone replacement therapy developed denser bones, an important consideration for a population at increased risk of fracturing brittle bones, a study said.

But the tradeoff may be that women with healthier bones run double the risk of developing breast cancer than women with weaker bones, perhaps because of the presence of increased levels of the hormone oestrogen, another study said.

A trio of studies on oestrogen hormone therapy for middle-aged women was published by the journal of the American Medical Association. Millions of post-menopausal women use the therapy.

One study of 875 women aged 45 to 64 by researchers

at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, found that the best results came from a hormone cocktail of oestrogen and progestin that increased bone mineral density in the spines of test subjects by an average of five per cent over a three-year period. In contrast, women who took only a placebo suffered roughly a three per cent loss of spinal bone mass.

Progestin offsets the impact of oestrogen on a woman's uterus and may boost bone mass as well.

Hip bone mass increased two per cent among those receiving the hormones, while those taking the placebo lost two per cent, according to the Maryland study.

Bones regenerate more slowly as the body ages, but

the Institute's Irma Meehan-Sims wrote that "accelerated bone loss (in women) is attributed to oestrogen loss resulting from ovarian failure." One in five white women aged 50 or older suffers from osteoporosis, or brittle bones, in both the hip and the spine, increasing the risk of debilitating fractures. Black women have lower rates of bone fractures.

But the University of Pittsburgh study by epidemiologist Jane Cauley, using data from a study of osteoporotic fractures among non-black women, found that those with the highest bone density had up to 2-1/2 times the risk of developing breast cancer than those with the lowest bone density. A total of 97 out of the 6,854 women older than 64 in the study

developed breast cancer.

"Clinical trials that include measurement of bone mineral density are needed to re-evaluate the balance of risks and benefits of hormone replacement therapy with regard to breast cancer, osteoporotic fractures, and coronary heart disease," Dr. Cauley wrote.

Cyclical bleeding suffered by some women who undergo hormone replacement treatment that can cause some to stop the therapy was reduced in a third trial conducted by researchers at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland. They used a daily treatment of norethindrone acetate, a progestin, combined with ethinyl estradiol, an oestrogen, to significantly reduce the menstrual-like bleeding.

## Gene breakthroughs spur fears of discrimination

WASHINGTON (R) — Genetic breakthroughs in the laboratory are spurring fears of discrimination among people in families at risk for hereditary disorders, a new study showed.

A Georgetown University survey of people in genetic support groups found that some people decline to take tests, and others do not inform employers or insurers of test results because they fear discrimination or retaliation.

The study by Virginia Lapham at Georgetown and Joan Weiss, director of the alliance of genetic support groups, is one of a series of

reports examining the scientific as well as the social implications of genetics in the latest edition of the journal Science.

The Science article did not mention any specific disorders, but genetic tests are available clinically, or as part of research projects, for a growing number of disorders including cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease, and certain breast, colon and kidney cancers, among others.

The 332 people surveyed who have one or more relatives with a genetic disorder were not randomly selected, so they may not be representative of the population as a whole. Still the authors said the findings point to areas of concern that warrant further study.

"Despite concerns about potential genetic discrimination and documentation of individual cases, there is little information about the incidence and range of the problem," they wrote.

One in four survey participants believed they were refused life insurance and more than one in five believe they were denied health insurance because of a genetic disorder in the family.

Thirteen per cent believed they were denied or fired from a job.

Nearly one in 10 chose not to get genetic tests because of fear of discrimination. Eighteen per cent did not reveal genetic information to insurers, and 17 per cent did not reveal it to employers.

Several state legislatures have begun to grapple with the question of genetic discrimination. About a dozen states have already passed laws limiting insurers' ability to take genetic dispositions into account in setting rates or granting policies.

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"No evidence links contemporary measurements of magnetic-field levels to childhood leukaemia," the report said.

Calling for more research, the council said the leukaemia tie might instead be due to other factors such as the age of homes, pollution, and heavy traffic in areas near power lines.

## Power lines pose no health threat — report

WASHINGTON (R) — In 17 years of research, scientists have found no hard proof that electric power lines near homes are a health hazard, the U.S. National Research Council said Thursday.

"Specifically, no conclusive and consistent evidence shows that exposures to residential electric and magnetic fields produce cancer, adverse neurobehavioural effects, or reproductive and developmental effects," the council said in a report reviewing 500 previous studies.

The studies focused on the health effects of magnetic fields — considered the main potential threat in electromagnetic fields — created by power lines, wires, and electric appliances such as hairdryers, microwave ovens, and computer terminals. Appliances create the highest field strengths to which people are commonly exposed.

Concern about electromagnetic fields grew after research

in 1979 found that children living near power lines were more likely than normal to develop leukaemia.

But the council said childhood leukaemia research to date was flawed because it measured exposure by estimating magnetic fields inside homes based on the distance of the power lines from the homes and size of the wires. It said actual measurements of magnetic field strengths inside homes showed little correlation to ratings of the wires outside the home.

"No evidence links contemporary measurements of magnetic-field levels to childhood leukaemia," the report said.

Calling for more research, the council said the leukaemia tie might instead be due to other factors such as the age of homes, pollution, and heavy traffic in areas near power lines.

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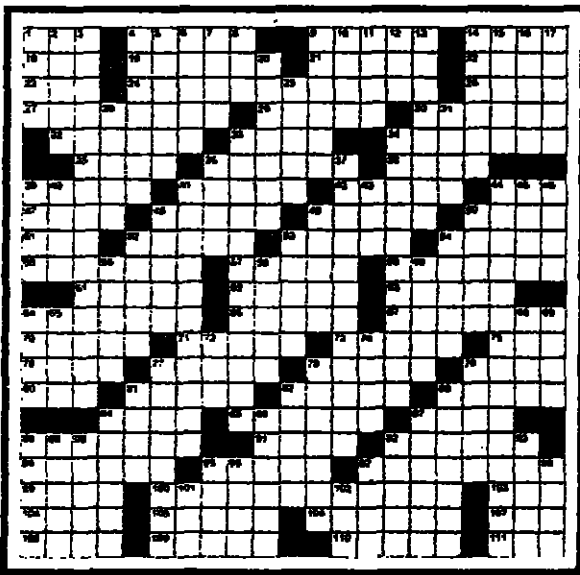
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## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

T FOR TWO  
By Diane C. Baldwin

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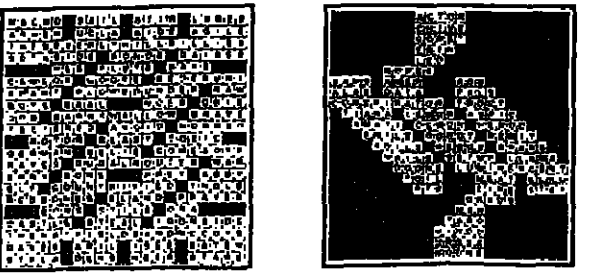


DIAGRAMLESS 17x17  
By Frances Burton

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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



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## ANSWERS

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The Ashmolean Museum in Beaumont Street, Oxford, England.
2. It is Loch Morar in Scotland. It reaches a depth of 310 metres (1017 feet) and is reputed to have its own monster in competition with Loch Ness.
3. A Blue Whale, 35 metres (114 feet) long, was caught in the Antarctic in the early 1900s. It was bigger than anything so far discovered in the way of remains of any prehistoric animal.
4. In 1556 there was a frightful earthquake in the Shensi Province in China, in which it was reported that over

800,000 people were killed.

5. In records at least, it was Pauline Musters, a Dutch girl who lived from 1876 to 1895. She was 58 cms (23 ins) only at death.

### PUZZLES

WORDY  
Cert. core, corset, cote, corset, crest, escort, orcs, rest, rose, rose, rote, rotes, sect, sector, score, sore, store, torso, toes, tore.



## 'Two million children died in armed conflicts in the past decade; three times as many were seriously injured or permanently disabled'

Following is a UNICEF press release on the impact of armed conflict on children:

"THE WORLD is being sucked into a desolate moral vacuum," according to Graca Machel, author of the report on the impact of armed conflict on children.

The report, which details the suffering of children caught up in some thirty wars raging around the world, is the most comprehensive study ever produced on the subject of children in conflict.

The report, the result of two years of detailed research and consultation, is far more than an assessment of the current situation. "Above all else," she says "this report is a call to action. It is unconscionable that we so clearly and consistently see children's rights attacked and that we fail to defend them. It is unforgivable that children are assaulted, violated, murdered and yet our conscience is not revolted nor our sense of dignity challenged."

In 1994, United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali appointed Ms. Machel, former Mozambican Minister of Education, as his expert to undertake a study on the

impact of armed conflict on children in response to a call from the General Assembly for a detailed examination of the issue.

While she proposes a number of concrete measures to protect children from the impact of armed conflict, Ms. Machel's most fundamental demand is that "children simply have no part in warfare."

The report is a landmark publication and contains new information as well as recommendations which will have programming implications from UNICEF, the U.N. system, governments and civil society, and findings which shed new light on familiar issues.

The report aims to demonstrate the urgent needs for effective measures to promote and protect children's rights before, during and after armed conflicts. It proposes concrete measures and recommendations for action, focusing on five key issues:

a) The relevance and adequacy of existing human rights and humanitarian law standards.

b) The reinforcement of preventive measures.

c) The protection of children in situations of armed

conflict including indiscriminate use of weapons of war, especially anti-personnel land mines.

d) The promotion of physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration.

e) The participation of children in armed conflict.

The report shows that, despite commitments made at the World Summit for Children and the near universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children are increasingly the first to suffer as a result of armed conflict. The report demonstrates that the changing nature of today's warfare requires a determined new response to ensure the most fundamental rights of children are protected.

The report argues that health, education and psychosocial support should be the three pillars of all emergency interventions in times of war to protect the long-term development of children.

It also calls on the international community to ensure that sanctions are carefully targeted and do not undermine the basic social services that are so essential to the well-being of children. The impact of sanctions on

children should be carefully monitored and humanitarian exemptions should be child-focused.

In the long-term, the report says, the international community must take steps to stop wars breaking out in the first place, including addressing the social and economic roots of conflicts and banning arms shipments to conflict zones.

In the meantime, however, all those involved in efforts to help children affected by conflict have a responsibility to report child rights violations. It calls for widespread dissemination and aggressive enforcement of the internationally agreed standards which already exist to protect children, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Geneva Conventions and their protocols and the Convention to End Discrimination Against Women.

Ms. Machel says: "These recommendations are practical and achievable. We simply need to have the will to make them happen. The alternative — to do nothing — is unthinkable. For the sake of future peace, we must invest in the protection of children today."

UNICEF's position on the

report's recommendation is:

1. UNICEF supports the appointment of a special representative of the secretary general for children in armed conflict and believes that it will add significant political weight to international advocacy efforts to protect children from victimisation in armed conflict.

2. UNICEF should develop more comprehensive guidelines on the protection and care of children in conflict situations.

3. UNICEF should provide leadership for the protection and assistance of internally displaced children.

4. UNICEF supports the organisation of a conference in collaboration with NGOs and the international community in the year 2000 to assess progress on the implementation of the report's recommendations.

It is hoped that this would be linked to an end to decade review of progress in achieving the goals set by the World Summit for Children in 1990. The latter three recommendations are directly in line with the new policy role UNICEF is playing in the frameworks of the Convention on the Rights of the

Child.

The report attacks the global complacency and cynicism which has allowed two million children to die in armed conflicts in the past decade, and three times as many to be seriously injured or permanently disabled.

"Millions of children are caught up in conflicts in which they are not merely bystanders but targets," says Ms. Machel. The need for concrete action has never been more urgent, says the report. It comments on the changing nature of warfare — with today's wars fought not between states but within them, from village to village and from street to street. This has put civilians in the firing line and they now account for over 90 per cent of war victims. Around half of these casualties are children. Many are killed by bombs and bullets, others are mutilated by land mines.

Many more die as a result of the more indirect and intangible evils of war: the destruction of health centres and water supplies and the tearing apart of families and communities.

According to the report, the ready availability of weapons

has increased the bloodshed, contributing to the recruitment of tens of thousands of boys and girls into armed forces.

The report calls for a global campaign to stop the recruitment of children under the age of 18 into armed forces and to ensure that all forces demobilise their under 18s immediately. It urges all countries to support the speedy adoption of the draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, raising the minimum age of recruitment and participation in armed forces to 18 years.

It calls for the appointment of a Special Representative of the secretary-general to monitor progress on the report's recommendations and to keep the whole issue of children in conflict high on the international agenda.

Recognising the desperate needs of the growing numbers of internally displaced people, the report recommends that the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, should provide leadership for the protection and care of internally displaced children in each conflict situation.

Highlighting the special threats posed to women and

girls during conflicts, with the systematic and increasing use of rape and other gender-based violence as weapons of war, the report recommends that all cases of wartime rape and sexual torture be prosecuted as war crimes and that all military personnel, including those engaged in peace-keeping, receive special training on their responsibilities to women and children.

Even after conflicts have ended, children are still exposed to the dangers posed by an estimated 110 million anti-personnel and land-mines scattered through the world's war zones. Supporting the growing international campaign for a complete ban on the production, use, trade and stockpiling of land-mines, the report emphasises the importance of humanitarian mine clearance, gender and age appropriate mine awareness programmes and the need for child-centred rehabilitation. It suggests that such initiatives be particularly financed by companies and countries which have profited from the sale of these deadly devices.

## Tomb suggests Egyptian colonists lived in Israel 5,000 years ago

By Matt Crenson  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A young Egyptian woman laid to rest in southern Israel 5,000 years ago may have been one of the world's first colonists, say the archaeologists who are excavating her tomb.

Though the woman lies 320 kilometers east of the Nile, her grave bears numerous marks of an ancient Egyptian burial, said Thomas Levy of the University of California, San Diego.

The woman lies on a low platform in an hourglass-shaped room that has been carved from a natural cave. She rests on her left side and faces east, toward the rising sun. The burial chamber lies at the end of a series of stepped passageways that are aligned east to west. And wall inscrip-

tions and standing stones commemorate the deceased.

"This is the first time that a monument like this has been found," Mr. Levy said. "It points to a very serious Egyptian occupation at the site."

Mr. Levy and a colleague, David Alon of the Joe Alon Regional Research Centre in Israel, have been excavating the site since 1994. Known as Halif terrace, it lies in the northern Negev Desert near the city of Beersheba.

Even as they began digging, scraping, brushing and sifting two years ago, the archaeologists said they knew that they were dealing with some type of Egyptian settlement.

"We've known that the Egyptians had been running around there," Mr.

Levy said.

In the past, the Egyptians were thought to have visited southern Israel mostly as traders. But the recent excavations at Halif terrace, conducted by the University of California, San Diego and the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, suggest that from the beginning the pharaohs sent colonists to a desert 320 kilometers from home and wielded political power there.

"This seems to be part of an overall expansion policy on the part of Egypt," said Lawrence Stager of Harvard University.

Several signs of an official government presence, such as official seal impressions and a serekh, a pharaoh's official symbol, have been found at Halif terrace. The serekh belonged to

Narmer, an early pharaoh sometimes credited with uniting Egypt and beginning a dynastic progression that lasted thousands of years.

It's not surprising that the Egyptians colonized their neighbors so early, Mr. Levy said. Wherever civilizations have sprung up without the encouragement of other groups — in central Mexico, Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley and Egypt — the newly organized people have exerted political control over their less sophisticated neighbors.

The Egyptian expansion seems to be an effort to procure prestige items for the new society's elites, Mr. Levy said. He said the Egyptians in southern Israel were probably there for wine, olive oil and maybe even slaves.

## Illiteracy still plaguing Arab World on eve of 21st century

By Safa Kanj  
Agence France-Presse

CAIRO — Arab countries will be unable to conquer illiteracy because of a population boom on the eve of the 21st century, the Arab League warned here this week.

According to a report published by the 22-member pan-Arab organisation, the overall rate of illiteracy in the Arab World was nearly 44 per cent, and 56 per cent of the illiterates were women.

"Despite a drop in the rate of illiteracy in the Arab countries, the number of illiterates has risen because of heavy demographic growth," according to a league study of Arabs over 15 years of age.

The study was released during a two-day conference held at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo Monday and Tuesday.

"In 1980, Arab governments had to fight against illiteracy among 55 million people, or 59.2 per cent of the

overall Arab population," over the age of 15, the study said.

By 1995, the percentage of illiterate people in the Arab World fell to 43.4 but their numbers rose to 65 million, of whom 56 per cent — or 36.4 million — were women, the study said.

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) meanwhile predicted that the number of illiterate Arabs will reach 70 million in 2010 when the overall Arab population is expected to rise to 270 million from 240 million in 1995.

More than half of the illiterate Arabs will be women, it added.

The conference focused on the "repercussions of the Arab woman's illiteracy on the family."

Referring to a study conducted in Jordan, it underlined that illiterate women were giving birth to an average of 6.4 children, compared

to women who received schooling, who had an average of 3.7 children.

Women who furthered their education had even fewer children, the study showed.

A study of illiterate women in Syria indicated that 8.7 per cent held jobs outside the home while 46.2 per cent of women with secondary school educations had jobs.

Illiteracy among women was 61-69 per cent in Egypt, Djibouti, Morocco and Sudan, and more than 70 per cent in Mauritania and Yemen.

In the oil-rich Gulf emirate of Kuwait, Libya and the Palestinian territories, female illiteracy was 25-37 per cent while it rose to 55 per cent in Algeria, Iraq, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Tunisia.

The female illiteracy rate was lower in Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, at less than 20 per cent.

Figures on the rate of female illiteracy were

unavailable for the civil war stricken member-state of Somalia or the Comoros Islands, the latest addition to the pan-Arab organisation.

But the league said it expected that the first eight countries mentioned in its report — Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, the Palestinian territories, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — would reduce their illiteracy rates to less than 16 per cent by 2010, while the illiteracy rate for the rest of the Arab countries would remain at between 25-70 per cent.

"This does not constitute a good indication because the first eight countries represent 20 million people, or one-twelfth of the overall Arab population," the report said.

"At the same time birth rates are climbing in the other 12 countries, including Egypt, the most populous Arab country, which has 60 million inhabitants, including 10.7 million illiterate women," it said.

## Israel said to accept call for lifting closure

(Continued from page 1)

that the Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Cairo were arguing over the wording of the meeting's final statement.

Israel had refused Palestinian demands that the final communiqué include an announcement of the cancellation of travel restrictions imposed on the Palestinian territories. The army-enforced strictures have forced tens of thousands of Palestinians to give up day jobs in Israel and severely restricted trade in and out of the Palestinian areas.

The Palestinian delegation argued that security concerns cited by Israel to justify the closure were unfounded and that the measures must be lifted to permit their economy to recover.

The Cairo summit, meanwhile, moved the focus away from cooperation with Israel and towards improving the environment for business in individual Middle East countries.

"The fear at Casablanca and at Amman (MENA summits) was that economic cooperation might lag behind the politics of peace. Unfortunately we do not have that fear today," said Yves Galland, head of the French delegation to the conference.

"This conference meets under different circumstances. We had anticipated that the recommendations of the previous conferences would be put into practice in an atmosphere of peace, followed by stability and prosperity," said

the Qatari foreign minister, Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasssem Al Thani.

"But the peace process unfortunately has run into certain obstacles," the minister added.

This has pushed Israel to the sidelines, though few of the Arab countries in Cairo have yet to go so far as to exclude the Jewish state from all of their plans.

"Casablanca was designed in the wrong way," Egyptian Foreign

Minister Amr Musa told a news conference. "Now we have it the correct way. Israel is just another country. We are telling Israel that its days of big talking are over."

"We are going ahead with our plans, regardless of what the Israelis are saying. We will not let the region be held hostage to Israeli policies," he added.

Significantly, the one big project likely to be signed in Cairo could deliberately bypass Israel, in favour of exporting Egyptian natural gas direct to Turkey across the sea. The Italian energy group ENI said that if plans to export Egyptian gas to Israel fell through for political reasons, it would invest \$2 billion in the underwater pipeline to Turkey.

The Egyptian Oil Ministry said on Wednesday it had asked ENI to take part in a project to export Egyptian gas to Turkey in partnership with the U.S. company AMOCO.

Oil Minister Hamdi Al Banbi has implied that Israel is no longer part of the plan.

saying negotiations with the Turks are more advanced than the long-running talks with the Israelis.

"The Israelis have put a brave face on marginalisation, while welcoming what they see as a focus on business."

"Casablanca was 90 per cent political and the business people were just the decoration around the political bowl," said Dan Proper, president of the Manufacturers' Association of Israel.

"Amman was more business-oriented and in Cairo we can say that the messages we are hearing have been economic messages. The next meeting should be the same — how to make the regional environment more friendly to business," he added.

Dan Gillerman, chairman of the Federation of the Israeli Chambers of Commerce, said: "We came to this conference with some trepidation...because we were getting mixed signals from the Egyptian government and the private sector. We were afraid this would be a political rather than a business event."

But Mr. Gillerman's organisation did meet 14 representatives of Egyptian industry and agree to set up an Israeli-Egyptian business council.

Mr. Gillerman is proposing a similar council for Israeli and businessmen in the Palestinian self-rule areas.

In another sign of the times, Mr. Huleihel, said Palestinians had to diversify trade away from the Jewish state, which has dominated their economy for almost 30 years.

## Gaucha tea's mystique lies in the ritual

VENANCIO AIRES, Brazil (AFP) — Much of the mystique of mate, the herbal tea favoured by South Americans, lies in the ritual. Each step of its preparation, from the fields to the kitchen, is steeped in centuries-old tradition.

Harvesters pick the leaves, then prune the wild trees with hand axes, leaving only the trunk. "It's pretty radical," says Lucio Metzendorf, president of the Brazilian Mate Producers Association.

"They strip the tree naked, then leave it for two to three years so it can restore itself."

Next they prepare an open space, called a "tatacu," by beating a 0.6-metre-square area of soil with mallets until it is hard and smooth. The leaves

and branches are placed in the tatacu and undergo a preliminary roasting from a fire kindled around it.

In Brazil, an arch of poles is then erected above the tatacu, the leaves and branches placed on it and another fire lit beneath.

After drying, the leaves are pounded into a coarse powder in pits dug in the earth.

In Paraguay and Argentina, the leaves are heated for 14 to 16 hours in large, cast-iron pans set in brickwork, a drying method used by the Chinese. Then the leaves are cut and packed in 50-kilogramme sacks and left for six months to two years, a process called "estacionamiento," or "parking" in Spanish. Mate never spoils, though aging

makes it more bitter.

Brewing and drinking also must follow custom.

Mate is drunk from a wood "cuia" — gourd, or calabash — sawed open, with its wide, flared rim serving as a handle. The tea is sucked through a "bomba" — a finely crafted, silver or aluminium tube 15-to-20-centimetres long which has a bulbous filter of extremely fine basket-work or metal on one end that prevents herb particles from being drawn into the mouth.

Beginners should always "roncar" — literally meaning "snore" but in this case "cure" — their gourds three times before drinking from them. Estella Valenzuela, author of a book titled "serving mate," advises readers to

pack new gourds with mate, add water and let the herb's flavour soak into the wood. "Otherwise your mate gets the taste of wood chips."

Maria da Gloria, 33, a secretary at the Rio Grande do Sul state legislature in Porto Alegre, proudly demonstrates the proper technique. Packing the bottom of her gourd with crushed mate, she inserts the bulbous end of a silver bomba, then adds more mate until the calabash is nearly full. Da Gloria dampens the herb with tepid water, then produces a teapot containing hot — not boiling — water.

"Boiling water ruins the taste because it burns the leaves," she says, adding with a wink, "and your mouth, too."

She adds water until a dark, green foam appears on the surface. The brew looks gross, gummy. She sucks on the tube once, careful not to let the bomba shift in the gourd, considered bad form, and passes the gourd to a visitor, who eyes it sceptically. "Oh, come on," she coaxes. "You won't die from it."

With all of these intricacies, mate drinkers have developed a vocabulary of more than 2,000 words to describe their rite. One bibliography cites 270 words for the plant and the drink.

Brazilians have even invented the verb "matear," which means "to drink mate," or literally "to mate." (not to be confused with the English verb).

## Netanyahu delays trip to U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

men in the talks on Israeli military deployment from the West Bank town of Hebron.

The negotiations were set to resume Wednesday night at Herzliya, north of Tel Aviv, at the home of the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk.

If the two sides come to an agreement, they could initial the text of an

accord which would then be submitted to the Israeli government during its weekly session Friday before being finalised by Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat, Israeli television said.

The agreement would then go to the Knesset for ratification.

## Ross returns home in a sign that Hebron deal not imminent

(Continued from page 1)

final status talks on issues as part of the agreement on an Israeli redeployment in Hebron.

Israel and the Palestinians were also at odds over an Israeli demand for the right for "hot pursuit" of suspected attackers into Hebron after it hands over the Palestinian-populated parts of the

West Bank town.

In Cairo, Mr. Meridor expressed confidence that "we are going to work out an agreement at the end in any event. All it needs is that little final decision from Arafat and we could sign the agreement immediately."



## Experts say privatisation can solve Mideast water shortage

The U.S. official quoted

The secretary general of the Jordanian ministry of water and irrigation, Koussai Quteishat, called on private sector participation in a project to recycle waste water in the Jordan Valley.

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1546	1.1704
DE Mark	0.469	0.4713
FR Franc	0.5576	0.5804
CH Franc	1.1388	1.1395
JP Yen	0.833	0.8362
NL Guilder	0.4181	0.4202
IT Lira	0.4858	0.4881

Middle East and North Africa economic conference which opened in Cairo Tuesday.

Mr. Nashashibi said Israel's 10-month closure and its control of water, land and labour in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were causing the most damage.

"We have never witnessed something like this — the collective punishment of a

(Continued on page 9)

6 Great cager's  
nickname

7 Accustoms

8 Mother-of-pearl

9 Dessert slice

10 Attila, e.g.

11 Light on one's  
feet

12 Send to a  
specialist

13 Imagine

19 Toddlers

21 Fishhook  
attachment

25 Bowls over

26 43A option

27 Diplomacy

28 Omnia vincit —

29 Modena money

32 Dive

34 The Ram

36 Draft status

37 Itineraries: abbr.

38 "The Lama"  
rhymester

40 Rent — (airport  
offering)

41 Labors

43 Bure huv

48 Courageous

48 Jewish cleric

49 Allegheny River  
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50 Spicy sauce

52 Country mansion

53 Annoy

55 Gomer or Ernie

57 Skewer

58 Actor Jacques —

59 With 1D, "The  
Four Seasons"  
star

61 Author Yutang

62 Carress

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22 to January 20) Make sure you get all of your gifts nicely wrapped and make your decorations lovely. Have more harmony later in the days ahead.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Get into the right spirit of things today. Show more love for others. Be more inventive where loved ones presents are concerned.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Serve others. Very well and do more for those who are less fortunate than you. Remember that generosity is a fine trait

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SEE YOU,  
PET

SEE  
YOU

SORRY FOR THE  
DELAY. CHALICE,  
I'D GONE BACK  
TO ME -  
I FORGOT HER A MEAL.

YOU MUST BE REAL PLEASUED  
TO HAVE HER BACK. I BET YOU  
EVEN DID ALL THE WASHING UP  
AFTERWARDS, DID?

NO, CHALICE  
BEFORE

ON THE RADIO? WHY, SURE, I'LL GIVE MY NAME AND ADDRESS!

THANK YOU!

MY NEXT GUEST IS... GIVEN BROWN, 'THE POWER ST...

JEFF IS MY FINEST I PUT HIM ON THE AIR!

LADIES FIRST!

LUCY JONES, AKALES AW...

OK, NOW YOU'RE ON!

OK, NEXT, I GOT 'EM ALL! HERE'S YOUR LIL ADDRESS BOOK!

NEVERMELDER, IT IS MY FIRM OPINION THAT YOU'VE BEEN BLAS...

THEY'VE BEEN BLAS...

Coverly

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Plan how to best budget your money for gifts at this time. Plot out regular payments for something which is valuable.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Some practical matter concerning yourself is wise to handle in the morning today. Be charming with your friends for good times.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Plan early which private matters need to be handled at this time. Schedule your activities for the whole work week.

1719 MOHAMMAD Dalal  
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"When my mom was a  
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ill, this can be my time-

1. **IDEA** \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. **ROCC** \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. **HILEEX** \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. **ISOC** \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. **VEN** \_\_\_\_\_  
 6. **G** \_\_\_\_\_  
 7. **ZEP** \_\_\_\_\_

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_



## Middle East Development Bank to be ready in 1997 — U.S.

CAIRO (AFP) — The Middle East Development Bank (MEDB) should be up and running by the end of 1997, a senior U.S. State Department official told the Cairo regional economic conference Wednesday.

Larry Butcher, the director of the department's Office of Development Finance, said the bank's transition team would start work this year to prepare the rules and regulations and policies for the bank, which will be adopted by the board of governors when it first meets.

"We believe that will be concluded to allow the bank to become operational in late 1997," he told a seminar at the Middle East and North Africa economic conference.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told the forum Tuesday that the

United States would sign the bank's charter next week.

Jordan was the first to sign the charter, and Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini announced at the forum Tuesday that Italy had become the second country to put pen to paper.

Mr. Butcher added that "all 19 prospective members were proceeding with their own ratification" processes, and that they should be completed within the next year.

Plans for the banks were first announced at the first MENA conference in Casablanca in 1994, but since then the project had encountered resistance from many European and Gulf countries.

French Foreign Trade Minister Yves Gallard told the Cairo forum Monday that France was prepared to

contribute funding to the bank's capitalisation.

At last year's conference in Amman, Mr. Gallard raised fierce objections to the project. However, he said Tuesday that while France would have preferred the creation of a more flexible fund, as opposed to a bank, Paris was supporting MEDB to be "positive and constructive."

The U.S. is the principal backer and main shareholder in the project, which will have authorised capital of \$5 billion and paid-up capital of \$1.25 billion.

It has pledged \$52 million to the capital, and Mr. Butcher said authorisation from the U.S. Congress for

the funding should not present any difficulties.

"We have a commitment between the administration and Congress to work together intensively to come up with the agreement on funding for the United States' share in the bank," he said.

He added that the MEDB "is not trying to duplicate the work of other institutions. The work of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank are going to remain very critical to this region." The bank aims to attract more private investors and other funds to the Middle East by offering concessional financing to projects that encourage regional cooperation.

## Business beats politics at Israeli stand

CAIRO (AFP) — While politicians at the Cairo regional economic conference plunged into a frenzy of activity on the stalled Arab-Israeli peace process, businessmen at the Israeli pavilion took a more relaxed approach.

Gulf Arabs, dressed in the traditional keffiyeh head-dress and long white galabiyahs (robes), wandered around casting an eye over the leaflets in Arabic and English trumpeting the potential business opportunities offered by Israeli companies.

Others casually sipped coffee as they sat with Israeli business leaders around a table scattered with little Israeli flags.

"Don't miss them," whispered an excited public relations officer urging photographers to capture the

moment on film.

"They are not worried about being filmed, and this proves that they continue to consider us as potential partners in business," said Dan Propper, the head of the Israeli Manufacturers' Association.

"Before this conference, many people thought that we would be boycotted in Cairo because of the political climate. I can tell you that has not been the case," he added.

Mr. Propper was referring to the deadlock in the Middle East peace process since the right-wing government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in May elections.

At the nearby pavilion of Qatar, Saleh Al Khelifi from the industrial services company Khelifi insisted his government had not put any

restrictions on Qatari businessmen doing deal with Israeli counterparts.

"As far as I am concerned, if it is beneficial to my company I am ready to do business with Israelis," he said.

However, Mr. Propper would not say if his agricultural company Ossem would be signing any contracts during the Cairo conference, which opened Tuesday.

He said discretion was paramount with Arab clients, but that he had already made deals in the past with Gulf partners.

"But in general, these (deals) have taken place through holding companies in places like Cyprus, France or Italy," he said.

The Israeli finance ministry estimated that commercial exchanges with Gulf countries are currently

running at around \$500 million a year — a figure which pales in comparison with total Israeli foreign trade of \$30 billion a year.

International consultant David Kimche, formerly a senior official with the Israeli intelligence service Mossad, said Israeli companies had taken a "lower profile" with their Arab partners in recent months.

"There is a reason for the current state of the peace process," he said glumly.

Yet despite the political posturing, Mr. Propper said, the conference had got off "on the right foot."

"The opening speech of President (Hosni) Mubarak was very positive, and contrary to what many people had expected he refrained from making a string of political accusations against Israel," he said.

## Palestinians say Israel

(Continued from page 8)

people for excuses that have no legal support ... mere excuses," he said.

"The closure has wrought damages that cannot be evaluated. A study shows that the main reason for the poverty of the Palestinians is Israel's policies of occupation... These have led to the continuous undermining of the Palestinian people."

Israel restricted the transport of goods and labourers from the self-rule areas after suicide bombings by Muslim militants killed 59 people in February and March. It has since eased some measures.

Mr. Nashashibi said since Israel occupied their territories in a 1967 war, Israel has handed over large chunks of the West Bank and more than 40 per cent of the Gaza Strip to Jewish settlers, reducing Palestinian agricultural lands.

"Agriculture makes up 32 per cent of our gross domestic product and Israel is depriving us of our main resources — land and water," he said.

"Israel's consumption of water is eight times that of the Palestinians while more than half our villagers have no water supply because of Israeli control over water," he said.

Import and export restrictions have also limited Palestinian trade and lowered income, while restrictions on the movement of labour has "handicapped economic development and investment opportunities", Mr. Nashashibi said.

He said unemployment in the Gaza Strip and West

Bank was an average 50 per cent.

Palestinian Economy and Commerce Minister Maher Al Masri said during a seminar on the Palestinian economy at the conference that the Palestinians were totally cut off from their trade partners.

"We cannot have a free exchange with the outside world because of this blockade, even with our neighbours Egypt and Jordan we cannot do business because the products are blocked at the frontier," he said.

However David Brodet, director general of the Israeli finance ministry, said Israel had "an enormous security problem" and that it was "obliged to protect its citizens."

"We have imposed restrictions, without completely stopping the flow of goods, and we do want the economic situation of the Palestinians to improve," he added.

He said Israel collected \$35 million a month in trade tariffs for the Palestinian National Authority, which he said made up 70 per cent of the income of the Palestinian budget.

"We cannot take risk and it is a dream to think that you can resolve the economic problems (of the Palestinians) without taking into account the security problems" of the Israelis, Mr. Brodet added.

Both Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher stressed Tuesday that it was vital for the Palestinians to reap the economic benefits of the peace process.

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Israel seen trying to marginalise Aqaba port

\*\* CAPTAIN MOHAMMAD Dalabeh, the director-general of the Ports Corporation has cautioned against the Israeli proposal to guarantee free passage for containers from the Israeli ports to and through Jordan. Noting that the Israelis have recently renewed their demand for free movement and passage of containers, arriving at Israeli ports, to Jordan without passing through Aqaba, Captain Dalabeh said such a request would be difficult to implement because of the bad effects it will have on Aqaba.

He added that there is a decision banning imports of containers except through the port of Aqaba and noted that the decision was taken in light of the expansion in building a container port at a very high cost in Aqaba. By allowing Israel to bring in containers to Jordan without passing through Aqaba means allowing other countries to do the same, and that consequently means "a total blow to the port of Aqaba," Captain Dalabeh stressed.

The chief of the Ports Corporation indicated that no one can be given preferential treatment. According to observers, Israel is pressing hard to get this preferential treatment while holding on to security excuses that actually hinder the flow of Jordanian products to the Israeli market.

Captain Dalabeh expressed his astonishment over the insistence of Israel to repeat its request for the free passage of containers. He explained that the negative impact on the port would be unbearable from such a demand. "It would not only be that the number of containers and ships arriving at Aqaba would drop, but the whole operational capacity of the port would decrease, and the losses will be overwhelming on all sectors," the captain stressed.

He emphasised that Jordan is adamant on closing the door to this Israeli request (Al Ra'i)

US: April 20...  
NE: (May 21) ...  
De: August 22 ...  
22) Be more ...  
ne spirit of the ...  
and come to a ...  
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the future work ...  
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ahead and the ...  
ure your car is ...  
success.



"When my mom was angry at me, she sent me to the time-out chair. If you want, this can be my time-out chair now."

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AGDEA

UROCC

AHLEEX

LAISOC

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MINER PIOUS CANINE FORGOT  
Answer: When the workers were tardy the cleaner was — STEAMING

### THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

WHAT A NEWS VENDOR LIKES TO GET IN SUB ZERO WEATHER.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

\_\_\_\_\_

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## European Soccer

## Klinsmann scores twice in Bayern cup win

MUNICH (R) — Juergen Klinsmann scored twice as Bayern Munich came back from a goal down to beat Werder Bremen 3-1 win on Tuesday and clinch a place in the German Cup semifinals for the first time since 1988.

The victory avenged a 3-0 league defeat by Bremen in September.

Bremen made the more positive start and went ahead in the 12th minute with a goal by Marco Bodo. Bodo had two further good scoring chances in the first half and his failure to convert them cost his side dearly.

Seconds before the half-time whistle Klinsmann headed Bayern level from Christian Ziege's cross into the box.

Bayern were clearly the stronger team in the second half and took the lead in the 65th minute when Ruggiero Rizzitelli lured Bremen goalkeeper Oliver Reck out of his goal before laying on a fine pass for Ziege to score.

Klinsmann put the icing on the cake with his second goal in the final minute.

"I think the team played their best home match of the season so far," said Bayern midfielder Lothar Matthaeus.

In the other tie, regional league side Energie Cottbus secured a place in the semifinals for the first time in their history with a shock win over first division St. Pauli in a penalty shoot-out.

#### Vicenza hold Milan 1-1 in Italian Cup

Surprising Vicenza showed the class that has

taken them to second place in Serie A this season, when they held giants AC Milan to a 1-1 draw away on Tuesday in the first leg of their Italian Cup quarter-final.

Vicenza, whose 41-year-old trainer Francesco Guidolin is reported to be a candidate to take over at Milan next season, were better organised than their famous opponents despite being a man down for the second half.

Striker Gabriele Ambrosotti gave them the lead in the 10th minute when he exploited a blunder by Dutch defender Michael Reiziger and beat goalkeeper Angelo Pagotto with a blast from the edge of the penalty area.

But Milan, without Liberian striker George Weah and injured Croatian midfielder Zvonimir Boban, struck back just 10 minutes later when Roberto Baggio dummied two defenders in a move that recalled his 1994 World Cup heroics.

Play remained balanced for the rest of the match despite Vicenza captain Giovanni Lopez being sent off seconds before the interval for two bookings.

"We stayed concentrated in 10 men and the away goal is very important," Guidolin said, referring to the second leg, scheduled for November 27.

Vicenza are only in their second season since promotion to the top flight but trail Serie A leaders Internazionale by only one point. They are three ahead of Milan, who are tied for third.

In the other quarter-finals, second division Cremonese meet Bologna and Juventus play Inter

while Napoli host Lazio Thursday.

#### Nantes continue revival

Nantes, the 1995 French champions who had such a disastrous start to the season, continued their surge up the French First Division table on Tuesday by beating struggling 10-man Nancy 2-0.

The latest success extends their unbeaten run to 10 matches and they have risen from bottom of the table to 11th and now have an outside chance of challenging for a UEFA Cup place — and even the title.

Captain Japhet N'Doram, Nantes' Chad international striker, scored the decisive goal in the 70th minute after Frederic Da Rocha had put Nantes clear in the 33rd minute.

N'Doram rifled home his ninth goal of the season after receiving an excellent cross from Jocelyn Gourvennec and pushing the ball past defender Cedric Lecluse inside the area.

Sixty seconds earlier, Nancy midfielder Jean-Philippe Sechet was given his marching orders for his second bookable offence, after a scything tackle on Gourvennec.

N'Doram was also largely responsible for Da Rocha's goal — for Nancy keeper Gregory Wimbée could not hold the African forward's shot, and as he beat the ball away the 22-year-old Da Rocha was on hand to slot home from 12 yards.

Nancy never looked like troubling Nantes and even

the sending on of Northern Irish international striker Phil Gray failed to rouse the newly promoted side who have the air of a team who are going to make a quick return to the second division.

#### Old boy Harford breaks Luton Hearts

Veteran striker Mick Harford repaid the cheers of the Luton fans when he came on as a Wimbledon substitute by scoring the winner as the London side snatched a 2-1 win in Tuesday's League Cup third-round replay.

Meanwhile Southampton, the other premier side on cup duty, also came back from a goal down to beat third division Lincoln 3-1.

Harford, 37, played for Luton when they scored their historic 3-2 last-minute victory over Arsenal in the 1988 League Cup final, and he was welcomed with a huge roar by the home fans when he came on for Wimbledon in the second-half.

They were not so happy, however, when Harford scored in the first period of extra time to extend the London Club's unbeaten run to 13.

Wimbledon, third in the Premiership, equalised seconds before the final whistle when Stewart Castledine fired home after a goalmouth scramble.

Luton had taken the lead in the 27th minute in farcical circumstances when Dean Blackwell conceded an embarrassing own-goal.

Blackwell went up to head away a Ceri Hughes

Freekick, but failed to notice that keeper Neil O'Sullivan was also coming off his line. The ball skidded off his head and into an empty net.

Southampton won the right to a fourth-round trip to first division Oxford when Gordon Watson, who came on for the injured Matt Le Tissier, sealed victory with his side's second goal eight minutes from the end — a vicious right footed shot.

A relieved Southampton manager Graeme Souness said his side had won because they stuck to their principles.

"It's hard to play against the muscular style of Lincoln. But I told them to stick to the passing game. We did and we won. I am proud of the boys," Souness said.

Southampton's Northern Irish international midfielder Jim Magilton had equalised with a second-half penalty, after Norwegian striker Egil Osenstad had been pulled down.

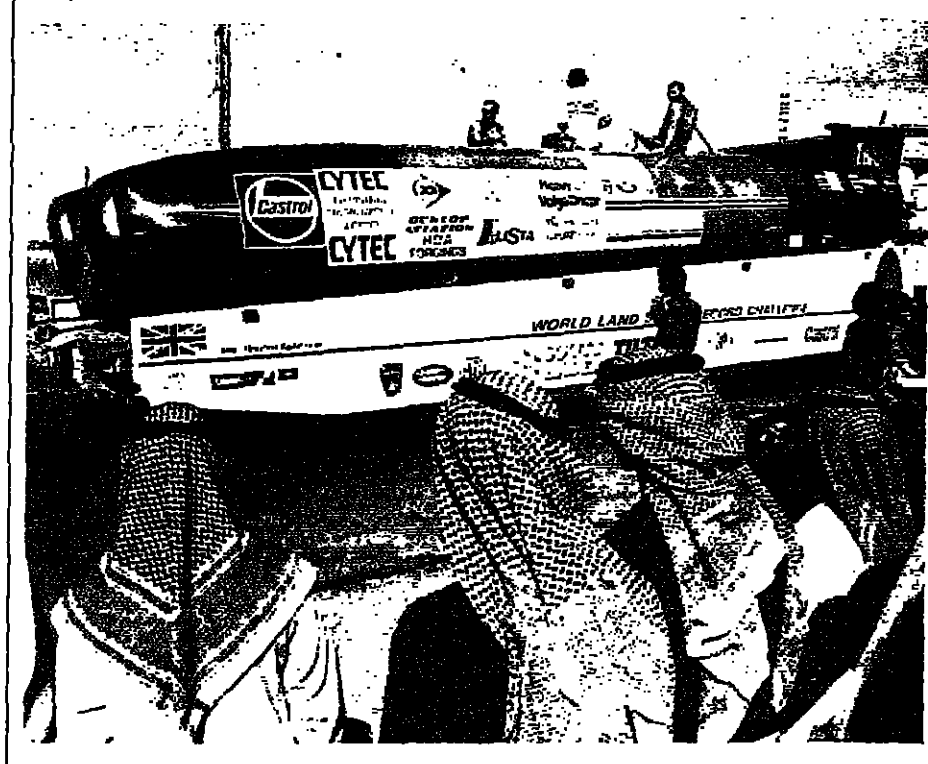
Israeli midfielder Eyal Berkovich wrapped up the tie with a last minute goal, a deflected shot that sent Lincoln keeper Barry Richardson the wrong way.

It had looked so different for Lincoln, who had grabbed a late equaliser in the first match at Southampton, as 23-year-old Gareth

Ainsworth, their player of the season last year, headed home from Terence Fleming's long throw.



In photo above, Britain's jet-powered car Thrust SSC roars across the deserts of southern Jordan on its first trial for an attempt to break the world land speed record. British Royal Air Force pilot Andy Green drove the 9.5-tonne car up to a modest 260 miles per hour (416kph), a fraction of the speed the car is aiming to reach. In photo below, Al-Jafri bedouins look at Thrust SSC before the car made its first trial for an attempt to break the world land speed record (Reuters photos)



## SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Brolin's move troubled

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Unsettled Tomas Brolin's hopes of moving to Italian side Sampdoria from English Premiership Leeds United appeared to have been thwarted Tuesday night — because of a doctor's report. According to reports here, the Sampdoria team doctor vetoed any move by Brolin to the Italian side because of a former injury — the broken leg Brolin sustained against Hungary in 1994. Sampdoria's Swedish coach Sven Goran Eriksson appeared to confirm the reports when he was quoted on Swedish television as saying he was "virtually certain" that the striker would not return to Italy.

#### Villa to sell Milosevic

LONDON (AFP) — English Premiership club Aston Villa hope to complete the transfer of 4.5 million pounds striker Savo Milosevic to Italian side Perugia this week. Milosevic has been in Belgrade since Yugoslavia's World Cup qualifier against the Czech Republic at the weekend.

#### Forget out of ATP doubles

HARTFORD (AP) — Former world doubles champion Guy Forget was forced to withdraw Monday from the ATP tour doubles tournament in Hartford because of a recurring knee injury. Forget, of France, and his Swiss partner, Jakob Hlasek, would have been seeded third at the Phoenix/ATP tour world doubles championship, which begins Wednesday. Forget and Hlasek won the first ATP tour world doubles championship in 1990. "We worked hard all year to earn a berth in Hartford so that we might have a chance to win again," Forget said. Forget reinjured his right knee during a tournament in Moscow last week. He said if he played in Hartford, "I would only be at 50 percent of my form."

#### Ferrari out of F1 deal

MARANELLO, Italy (R) — Ferrari said Tuesday they had pulled out of a deal to provide engines for the Sauber Formula One team because the Swiss group had been premature in announcing the agreement. Sauber said on Monday they had reached a deal under which the Italian

company would "manufacture, supply and develop" a Formula One engine for the team in 1997 and 1998. But Ferrari spokesman Giancarlo Baccini told reporters: "We did not expect such a premature announcement before defining the details (of the deal)." "We had an agreement in principle on transferring technology to Sauber," he added. "But now it has become impossible to continue the talks." Baccini said the talks were for a five-year deal, but he said the team would not be able to supply engines to the other teams after disappointing results with the Scuderia Italia team two seasons ago. Scuderia Italia merged with Minardi's team in 1994 after their Ferrari V12-powered Lola had failed to make an impression.

#### Vega turns down Leeds

CAGLIARI, Italy (AFP) — Cagliari's Swiss defender Ramon Vega turned down the chance of joining the Serie A Exodis team in the English Premiership by turning down an offer from Leeds United on Tuesday. "I'm not going to Leeds," said the 25-year-old international. "I haven't changed my mind since Tottenham Hotspur asked me a few weeks ago if I wanted to leave." Cagliari officials would not comment on the reported three-million pound (\$4.5 million) offer from the Yorkshire Club, but new coach Carlo Mazzone said: "Vega has his offers, but he's staying here. I've no intention of weakening the squad. And that's what would happen if Vega left."

#### Referee denies fixing match

BUCHAREST (AFP) — Romanian referee Ivan Igna has denied he was bribed by Porto to allow the Portuguese side to win their 1984 European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final against Aberdeen of Scotland. "I know nothing about it. I was ever criticised by the Portuguese after the match for refusing them a penalty," he said. Porto won 1-0 but lost the final 2-1 to Juventus of Italy. "This scandal reminds me of another cup Winners' Cup semi-final I refereed in 1987 between Olympique Marseille and Ajax Amsterdam," Igna said. Igna said Marseille president Bernard Tapie said at the time the French side would win because he had invited the Romanian tennis player Ilie Nastase.

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#### PUBLIC INVITATION

On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities / Department of Antiquities has the pleasure to invite all citizen residents to visit the National Museums and all the archaeological sites free of charge on this happy day Nov. 14th 1996.

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## Majoli advances at Advanta

VILLANOVA, Pennsylvania (AP) — Iva Majoli of Croatia won a baseline duel Tuesday, beating Judith Wiesner of Austria 6-2, 6-2 to advance to the second round of the \$450,000 Advanta championships.

Majoli won in 74 minutes at Villanova University and will next play Chanda Rubin, who went three sets Monday night against Virginia Ruano-Pascual.

Also, Lisa Raymond beat Gigi Fernandez 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 in a first-round match distinguished by great shotmaking on both sides of the net.

Steffi Graf, the top seed, will begin her title defense Thursday against Amy Frazier, instead of Wednesday as originally scheduled.

Frazier won her opening set. She broke to a 4-0 lead in the second set.

Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia won her opening match, a 6-4, 7-6 (7-1) decision over Anna Kournikova of Russia. Basuki, capitalizing on her opponent's errors, won the match with a running forehand shot down the line. And in first-round doubles, top-seeded Lindsay Davenport and Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic advanced to the quarterfinals by defeating Amanda Coetzer of South Africa and Anna Kournikova of Russia, 7-6, (10-8) 6-2.

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ON THE OCCASION of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, and under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Neer Al-Hussein, the SOS Children's Village Association of Jordan in cooperation with the Austrian Embassy and Freddy for Music holds a special concert of Viennese Music & the Best Waltzes of Robert Stolz, played by "The High-String String Ensemble" on Monday November 18, 1996, 8:00 p.m., at the Royal Cultural Centre.

In 1995, The High-String String Ensemble met outstanding success with the creation of the first International Salon Music Summer course for Strings in Kitzbich, Styria. In the same year, they were presented with the Award of Honor from the International Robert Stolz Society for their support and promotion of the composer's works.

They are coming specially to Jordan for this occasion. They will be playing only for one night, and for the benefit of SOS Children, and will be joined also by Mrs. Cippavina, and Mrs. Oksana Mastch.

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Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

**Philadelphia 2**  
Tom Cruise ... in  
**MISSION IMPOSSIBLE**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

**CINEMA PLAZA** TEL: 699238

**Leslie Nelson ... in**  
**SPY HARD**  
(In Dolby stereo)  
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

**CINEMA CONCORD** TEL: 677420

**CONCORD "1"**  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
(In Dolby stereo)  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45

**CONCORD "2"**  
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## Ahli conclude visit to Syria with win over Shurta

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's former basketball champions Al Ahli Wednesday returned home after concluding a four-day visit to Damascus during which they had a series of friendlies against Syrian teams in preparation for the start of the 1996 first division basketball championship which kicks off Nov. 19 with six teams taking part.

Al Ahli ended their visit on a positive note beating Al Shurta 69-67 (35-29). In their first two matches they lost to Al Jaish 74-67, and 76-52 to Syria's top team, Al Wihdah.

Al Ahli are represented by their younger players led by Faisal Nsour, Mohammad Shamali, Walid Badran and Ramez Hammoudeh in the absence of three of their top stars — Marwan Ma'touq, Yousef Zaghloul and Naser Bushnaq.

In their final match in the Syrian capital, Al Ahli's coach gave all bench players a chance to play in order to test their readiness for competition. Marwan Saedi was the team's top scorer with 15 points. Hammoudeh and Taimour

Shamali had 10, Mohammad Shamali 9, Wisam Nino and Haitham Abbadi 8, Faisal Nsour 6.

Team officials who did not seem to be bothered by their first two defeats and noted that the matches were intended on putting the finishing touches and amending any shortcomings prior to the first division championship in which Al Ahli will face stiff competition in trying to get back their crown.

During their stay in Damascus Al Ahli's team manager met with Syrian basketball officials and welcomed the proposal to have a tournament grouping Lebanese, Syrian and Jordanian teams in Damascus in April to be followed by similar tournaments in Beirut and Amman.

Another of the country's top teams, Al Jazireh, are currently in Beirut to play a series of matches against top Lebanese teams. Al Jazireh will meet Al Riyadi, Al Tadamon and Al Hikmah.

Titleholders Al Orthodoxi who regained their title last year, were the first team to start friendly matches abroad as they took part in the Hariri championship in Beirut last month alongside top Arab teams from Lebanon and Egypt.

## World Bodybuilding Championship opens today

Amman proposed as host of 1997 Middle East Championship

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The 50th World Bodybuilding Championships open here Thursday with competitors from a record number of 78 countries vying for top six places in the six weight categories.

Preliminaries start in at 9:30 a.m. and participants will be narrowed down to 15 in each of the groups before the final six make it to Friday's finals.

Egypt is probably the strongest contender among participating Arab countries and includes Anwar Imawi — a two time World Championship second place finisher. The Syrian team includes a gold medal winner in the latest youth championship. Algeria, Lebanon and Iraq also have strong contenders.

Jordan is headed by Mustafa Hasanein — a third place finisher in the over 90-kilogramme world championship in Shanghai 1994.

Other competitors include Ibrahim Srou (65

k), Bilal Abu Rajouh (80 k), Ahmad Saafien (90k).

Hosts of the upcoming World Championship, the Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland and Cyprus and Sweden are the strongest among other countries taking part especially in the absence of the U.S. team.

Senior organizer Abdul Mune'm Abutouq Wednesday announced that President of the International Federation of Bodybuilders (IFBB), Mr. Ben Weider, will not be attending the championship due to illness.

Abutouq expressed his gratitude to all those who worked hard to organize the first World Championship in Jordan.

"We can only hope that Jordanian competitors benefit and finish among the top ten in the championship," he added.

Abutouq said eight Jordanian referees would be taking part in judging the event alongside 50 international referees.

The executive board of the IFBB held its meetings



Jordan's Mustafa Hasanein

Wednesday to discuss upcoming championships.

Amman was proposed as host for the Middle East Championship. Syria as host of the Arab Championship, Cairo as host of the African Championship, the Czech Republic as host of the 51st World Championship, and the Masters and Juniors in the Slovak Republic.

The weigh-in and drug testing also took place Wednesday. The results of tests will be sent to the laboratories of the International Olympic Committee in Spain. If a competitor tests positive he will be stripped of his medal and suspended for two years.

The IFBB World Congress starts its meetings Friday morning and the final round of the competition will be held Friday afternoon concluding the championship.

Jordan Television will be covering the event and prices of tickets had been reduced to JD 5 for the preliminary round and JD 7 for the final round.

### Participating countries

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Macedonia, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, U.A.E., U.S.A., Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Jordan.

## Lakers deal Rockets first loss of season

HOUSTON (R) — Shaquille O'Neal had 34 points and 15 rebounds and Nick Van Exel got eight of his 29 points in double overtime as the Los Angeles Lakers dealt the Houston Rockets their first loss of the season, 126-115 Tuesday.

Despite playing without O'Neal, who fouled out with 17 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Los Angeles outscored Houston 13-2 in the second overtime.

Cedric Ceballos had 22 points and 10 rebounds and Eddie Jones added 18 points although he fouled out with 9:46 left in the fourth.

"I felt we played very well," O'Neal said. "We took the Rockets into two overtimes — even after two starters fouled out. The win brings us closer together as a team. If everyone can play their role like tonight then we can win on any given night."

Charles Barkley scored 33 points and Hakeem Olajuwon added 31 for Houston (6-1), which was the last undefeated team in the Western Conference. The defending champion Chicago Bulls are now the NBA's only undefeated team (7-0).

"We played as well as we could but that's basketball," said Barkley after the battle of Western Conference powers. "I didn't expect us to go 82-0. This will be a battle all year with these guys. Utah, Seattle and the Lakers, every time we play those teams we have to be ready to play."

"It was a good game and it could have gone either way," said Olajuwon, who scored eight of Houston's 13 points in the first overtime. "LA played a wonderful game down the stretch. We missed some wide open shots at the end that we have to make. We found the open man but didn't make the shot."

In New York, Allen Iverson scored 25 of his 35 points in the second half and made a key steal in the final minute as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Knicks 101-97, their first win at Madison Square Garden in nearly three years.

The quicksilver Iverson, top pick in last June's draft, fouled out both New York point guards in the fourth quarter, when he scored 10 points and corralled two crucial loose balls.

"I think I already proved that I should be on this level," he said. "Now what I'm trying to do is win. Whatever the team needs me to do, whatever the coaches want me to do, that's what I try to do. I don't try to go out there and impress."

Jerry Stackhouse added 28 points for Philadelphia.

Larry Johnson led New York with 28 but had two of the three missed three-pointers that could have tied the game in the closing seconds. Patrick Ewing had

26 points and 15 rebounds for the Knicks, 4-0 on the road but 1-2 at home.

In Miami, Tim Hardaway had 22 points and 11 assists as the heat beat the Charlotte Hornets 105-97 for their third straight victory and best-ever start at 5-1.

Dan Majerle added 20 points and former Hornet Alonzo Mourning contributed 14 points and nine rebounds as Miami passed New York into first place in the Atlantic Division.

In Vancouver, Malik Sealy scored 22 points and Pooh Richardson got five of his 15 in the second overtime to lead the Los Angeles Clippers to a 99-92 victory over the winless Grizzlies.

Stanley Roberts also scored 15 for the Clippers, who posted consecutive wins for the first time this season. Los Angeles trailed the entire game until Richardson banked a short jumper as time ran out in the fourth quarter, tying the score 81-81.

Bryant Reeves scored a career-high 30 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Grizzlies (0-7).

In Seattle, Shawn Kemp scored 33 points and Detlef Schrempf added 27 to lead the SuperSonics to their fourth straight win, 121-102 over the Golden State Warriors.

Latrell Sprewell scored 27 points to lead Golden State, which lost its fourth straight.

At Minnesota, Tom Gugliotta scored 26 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and

hit a free throw with eight seconds remaining as the Timberwolves held off a late charge by the Portland Trail Blazers for a 100-97 victory.

Kevin Garnett added 20 points and 11 rebounds and Terry Porter had 18 points and eight assists for Minnesota, which defeated Portland for the first time in 16 games.

In Atlanta, Mookie Blaylock scored a career-high 39 points, including six three-pointers, and hit an 18-foot jumper with four seconds remaining to give the Hawks an 87-83 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Blaylock, who scored 12 points in the fourth quarter, also grabbed eight rebounds and added out eight assists.

In Milwaukee, Vin Baker scored five of his 32 points in overtime and Armon Gilliam added a career-high 22 rebounds as the Bucks defeated the winless Phoenix Suns 99-89.

The win was the first for Milwaukee (5-1) over Phoenix (0-7) since March 5, 1991, an 11-game span.

In Dallas, Derek Harper scored 17 points and Jim Jackson 16 to help the Mavericks snap a four-game losing streak with an easy 103-82 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

At Washington, Grant Hill had 24 points, nine rebounds and seven assists and the Detroit Pistons held the Bulls to 30 points in the first half en route to a 92-79 victory.

## Roma to pay transfer 4 years later

ZURICH (R) — Italian club Roma were ordered on Tuesday to pay Red Star Belgrade a transfer fee of \$9 million for Yugoslav midfielder Sinisa Mihajlovic, who played for them between 1992 and 1994.

IFFA, world soccer's governing body, told Roma to pay the fee — originally withheld because of U.N. Sanctions against Yugoslavia — plus around \$2 million in interest for the 27-year-old international.

Ironically, Mihajlovic is no longer at Roma, having moved to Sampdoria at the start of the 1994-95 season.

The payment for the transfer, which took place in 1992, was never made because of the Balkan war and a trade embargo imposed by the United Nations on companies with their legal base in Yugoslav territory.

When the ban was lifted in 1995, Roma first agreed and then refused to pay the fee which now amounts to over \$11.1 million with interest.

## 49ers concerned after Young's second concussion

SANTA CLARA (AP) — Steve Young, staggered by a second concussion in three weeks, almost certainly won't play next Sunday and teammates worried about the physical toll on the 49ers quarterback from the succession of head blows.

Young was described as "very doubtful" for San Francisco's upcoming game against Baltimore, though coach George Seifert left open a slight possibility that he could suit up if he receives clearance from his neurologist.

Young was scheduled to see a specialist, although team physician Dr. James Klint has already recommended that Young sit out at least one week.

Elvis Grbac would start against the Ravens if Young can't play. Young's latest concussion, suffered during Sunday's 20-17 overtime loss to Dallas, was not as severe as the initial concussion sustained Oct. 27 during the first series at Houston, but the repeated episodes are troubling.

"That definitely sends up some red flags," said left tackle Steve Wallace, who has suffered concussions in the past and now plays with a special bubble covering the top of his helmet for added head protection. "I'd take a little time and get myself well." Seifert said the team is taking all due precautions and the possible cumulative effect from the concussions remains a serious concern.

Miller, a former quarterback with the St. Louis Rams, and Toon, who played wide receiver for the New York Jets, both were driven into retirement after suffering repeated concussions.

Tight end Brent Jones said he's worried Young, who's also been bothered by a chronic groin strain, might try to continue playing when he should give himself more time to heal.

"I hope Steve's smart enough to realize — and I'm sure he is — that football is not more important than the rest of his life," Jones said. "It's just a good precaution to make sure he checks that out and is smart with that."

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## King says economic summits will be more beneficial if peace prevails

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday said the aspirations of the majority of people in the region have been adversely affected due to setbacks in the peace process, adding that the "melancholic" mood has manifested itself at the Cairo economic summit.

Economic summits are connected with progress in the peace process and the further we progress in this process, the more these summits will be beneficial and useful. The less progress achieved the more people will feel that the peace process is pointless," said the King in an interview with the London-based Arabic daily Al Quds Al Arabi.

"If prospects are not clear for the two parties to achieve progress based on what they agreed on, the situation will adversely affect the general atmosphere because the idea of economic summits is based on the assumption that the region is heading towards a comprehensive peace and we are requesting the world to come and share with us

the process of development and modernisation," added King Hussein.

Asked whether the normalisation process with Israel should stop pending progress in the peace process, the King said "normalisation means removing the barriers that prevented people to contact one another. The barriers of the past serve only the extremists. Our aim in the Arab World is to adopt measures that will save us from the current whirlpool through which we have lived in the past and to achieve progress for us and the future generations," said the King.

"But I see no reason for closing the door for any possibilities of benefiting from other parties' achievements," he added.

In reply to a question on why should the Arabs continue these summit meetings which have so far benefited Israel alone, enabling it to open new markets in many parts of the world, the King said:

"Of course the economic summits are connected with the peace process in the

Middle East and, in my view, there are small groups on both sides who do not believe in peace. The Israelis, despite their strength, suffer from the feeling of constant fear in the light of what had happened to them in different parts of the world. We suffer because we lost our rights. Therefore we must give them our reassurance and at the same time get our rights."

Answering a question on the attitude of the Israeli government which refuses to implement the agreements reached between the Israelis and the Palestinians, he said "I agree the situation calls for worry for me and many others."

With the change of governments in Israel, the King said, the political atmosphere has changed and the Israelis have been obsessed by security-related issues.

"We do not know how to deal with the new situation. I personally see no chance for progress unless Israel implements all the agreements reached with the Palestinians," the King said.

"There is no doubt that the

atmosphere is not clear. Prospects of danger still exist," said the King who expressed hopes that the peace process will progress with the help of the new U.S. administration.

Referring to the prospect of holding an Arab summit, the King said: Jordan does not oppose the participation in any Arab meeting but regretted that the Arab League is not living up to Arab countries' expectations.

"I believe no one is happy with the Arab League's performance," he added.

On Jordan's relations with Syria, he said they are "normal and brotherly." But he regretted that there was no coordination of positions between the two sides during the peace negotiations.

Referring to Iraq, the King reiterated Jordan's position towards Arab countries, stressing that the Kingdom does not interfere in the internal affairs of any country.

"I did not bring the Iraqi opposition groups to Jordan with the intention of carrying out any schemes. Jordan is open to all Arabs."

## Iraqi Kurd peace talks likely to be postponed

ANKARA (AFP) — A new round of U.S.-sponsored peace talks between rival Iraqi Kurd factions scheduled for Friday in Ankara is likely to be postponed, the Turkish foreign ministry said Wednesday.

News of the likely delay came a day after Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz held talks in Ankara and called for Turkey to withdraw its support for "U.S. interference" in Kurdish-held northern Iraq.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Omer Akbel said the Iraqi-ally Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) has requested the delay before a second round of Kurdish peace talks aimed at consolidating a ceasefire in northern Iraq.

"The Nov. 15 date for the meeting has not yet been settled. The KDP has asked for a delay of a few days, to wind up their preparations," Mr. Akbel told reporters.

On Tuesday, Mr. Aziz said after talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller that "the main reason for the problem, the mess, is foreign interference, or in other words, U.S. interference."

"The U.S. interference is complicating things against not only Iraq but also Turkey," he said. "I hope we work

together (with Turkey) according to what is to our benefit and what is not."

Dr. Ciller reiterated Turkey's support for Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty but acknowledged "some differences" between Ankara and Baghdad.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau and senior officials from the KDP and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) are due to reconvene here to work out differences between the rival Kurdish groups.

A battle erupted in late August as the KDP of Massud Barzani, backed by Baghdad forces, attacked Jalal Talabani's PUK and captured the Iraqi Kurd "capital" of Erbil.

After two months of fighting in which towns changed hands, the two Kurd groups declared a ceasefire on Oct. 23 and pledged to seek a peaceful settlement to their disputes in the first round of Ankara talks on Oct. 31.

Mr. Pelletreau chaired the meeting which was also attended by British and Turkish diplomats.

Turkey's Deputy Foreign Minister, Onur Oymen, met Wednesday with U.S.

Ambassador Marc Grossman to brief him on the talks with Mr. Aziz. The ambassador said Mr. Pelletreau was due back in Ankara the next day.

A Western diplomatic source said the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was pressuring the KDP to pull out of the Ankara talks and turn instead to Baghdad's offer of mediation.

The Iraqi opposition said Tuesday that Mr. Aziz held talks with senior KDP official Najeevan Barzani in northern Iraq last Saturday on his way to Russia via Turkey.

The deputy premier also travelled through Iraqi Kurdistan on his way back from Ankara on Wednesday, the Turkish news agency Anatolia said.

Mr. Aziz said at the start of November that it objects to most of the key points of the U.S.-brokered agreement with the PUK at the end of last month but insisted it would respect the ceasefire.

The KDP and PUK have jointly controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf war.

But their fragile power-sharing agreement broke down into armed conflict over tax revenues in May 1994 and an

estimated 2,500 people have been killed in the ensuing conflict.

Turkey launches attack

Turkish troops backed by air power have stepped up operations in eastern Tunceli province in a bid to undermine the guerrilla presence in the mountainous region before winter, military officials said on Wednesday.

Three rebels from the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) have been killed since the launch on Tuesday of an operation involving up to 40,000 troops supported by tanks. Three soldiers have been injured in clashes, the officials said.

One military official said some 700 militants from the PKK and extreme leftist organisations are based in remote areas of Tunceli.

"We began an autumn operation to make them ineffective before winter comes," the official said.

Super Cobra helicopters bombed the area and Sikorsky helicopters transported soldiers from Tunceli town to outlying areas, witnesses said.

## Srouf appears favourite in House speakership elections

(Continued from page 1)

Sources say the NAF, which has announced this week it fully supported Mr. Srouf, was willing to coordinate with the 15-member IAF for the House's office elections, but on its own terms. The National Front offered the second deputy seat for the Islamists in exchange for the Islamists' support for the first deputy seat to go to the NAF. The IAF bloc seems to be determined, however, to contest the first deputy speaker's elections.

Six days before the opening of the fourth ordinary session of the House, a heated competition seems to be raging on all fronts. The IAF complained that it, along with other opposition deputies, are being targeted by the government. In a statement issued on Wednesday, 22 opposition deputies accused the government of directing 22 deputies, who are also ministers, to vote for Mr. Srouf.

"This is a flagrant violation of the Constitution and the separation of the three powers," claimed the statement signed by 22 Islamist and leftist opposition deputies. "We denounce the acts of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti that are aimed at imposing his will on the (representatives) of

the people."

Minister of Information Marwan Muasher brushed aside the opposition complaints and contended that it is the government's right, as it is the opposition's, to lobby for its own candidate. He said that the opposition should stop thinking about the past and start looking ahead to the future.

"Opposition deputies should refrain from tackling forgotten issues," said Dr. Muasher. "We (the government) look forward to an era of cooperation (with the opposition and with all other deputies)."

But Dr. Emoush said that the opposition's relationship with the government is "terrible" and will remain that way. He contended that the government does not respect parliamentarians and had, on several occasions, ignored their requests.

"Even when we asked the government to provide us with the list of Jordanian prisoners in Syrian jails prior to our visit there, it did not answer our calls," said Dr. Emoush who was part of a delegation of opposition leaders and deputies which went to Syria earlier this month.

His Majesty King Hussein will open the House session next Tuesday with a speech from the Throne outlining the government's policies.

After the King's pardon

this week of political and other detainees, linked to August bread riots in the south, the tense relationship between the government and the deputies is likely to ease, not to go away altogether.

Opposition deputies in particular intend to question the government on several pending issues, on top of which the elections law. Since he took office earlier this year, Mr. Kabariti pledged, among other things, to introduce a new election law that "ensures equality among all Jordanians."

The current law is a temporary one and was amended last in 1993 by the introduction of the one-person, one-vote formula.

It has been criticised as enforcing tribalism and sectarianism. The government, on several occasions, said that it was willing to introduce changes to the law but that the one-person, one-vote formula would not be changed.

The influential and outspoken Irbid deputy, Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, who heads the House's powerful law committee has criticised the current law.

Mr. Rawabdeh said he favoured the old system by which voters could choose a number of candidates equal to the seats in

their constituency.

He also proposed that under-represented constituencies should have more seats.

Dr. Muasher said the government was working on several draft laws that are mainly economy- and information-related. As to the election law, the minister said "there was nothing ready at the moment." He would not elaborate.

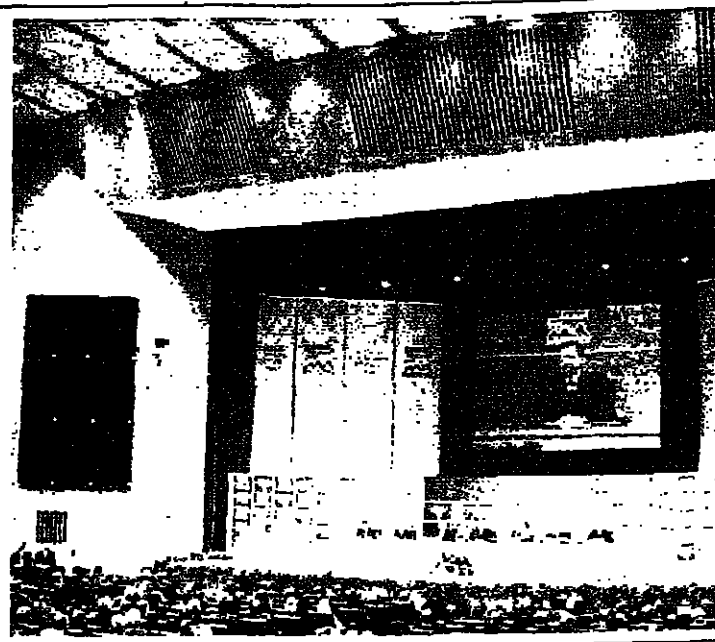
There were reports recently that, in his speech, the King might unveil a plan to introduce the so-called Norwegian law that disallows deputies to hold ministerial portfolios. The report, however, could not be confirmed or denied by the minister. Dr. Muasher would only say that the King's speech will mainly focus on political issues, without talking about details of the government programme.

Following the speech, the Senate will convene under the chairmanship of Ahmad Lawzi and will elect a committee to prepare a reply to the speech. It will also elect members of the Senate's permanent bureau, two assistants for the speaker and form different committees.

The House will then hold its first session to elect a speaker, deputies to the speaker and assistants.

### GENERAL VIEW OF CONFERENCE

A GENERAL view of the opening session of the Middle East and North African Economic Conference. The conference aims to underpin Middle East peace by integrating Israel into the regional economy (Reuters photo)



## Israel may amend trade accord to the benefit of Jordan

From P.V. Vivekanand in Cairo

ISRAEL HAS agreed to amend an agreement on economic ties with the Palestinians so that the scope of Jordanian and Egyptian exports to the West Bank and Gaza Strip could be increased, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb said Wednesday.

Israeli Finance Minister Dan Meridor confirmed that a draft of the suggested amendments was drawn up, but he blamed the Palestinians for the delay in formalising the changes.

Addressing a press conference on the fringes of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference, Mr. Abul Ragheb also reiterated the Kingdom's concern over the "slowdown" in the peace process.

"Economic development and prosperity depends on a suitable political climate based on comprehensive peace in the entire Middle East," he said. "Jordan takes heart from the high number of business participants in the (Cairo) conference since it indicates a very strong business support and interest in the region."

"But we are indeed concerned over the slowdowns that the peace process has suffered," said the minister, adding that Jordan was trying "through whatever means it could" to ensure that the peace process picks up momentum.

On the bilateral front, "we understand from the Israeli and Palestinian sides that

they have agreed on amending parts of the Paris agreement," he said, referring to the accord on economic ties that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed in the French capital in April 1994.

"The amendments have not been finalised yet, but we understand that it could happen any time," he added.

Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) agreed in August to press Israel to amend the Paris accord, which set out a specific list of products that the Palestinians could import from sources outside Israel.

As such, it limits the scope of Jordanian exports to the Palestinian territories, which, observers say, Israel wants to keep as captive market for itself.

This provision in the Paris agreement, along with other conditions which severely curtail the economic freedom of the Palestinians, has come under strong criticism from Jordan and other Arab countries.

Mr. Abul Ragheb renewed that criticism on Wednesday. "We see the Paris agreement as discriminatory against Jordan and Egypt," he said. He declined to elaborate on the expected amendments.

But Mr. Meridor, in an interview with the Jordan Times, said he expected the changes to lead to increased Jordanian exports to the Palestinian territories.

Without going into details, he said the issue was brought up by his Jordanian counterpart Marwan Awad during a

meeting in Washington last month. "When I went back (to Israel), I checked and then asked the Palestinians to submit proposals. They presented some proposals and we agreed on certain things. But then they stopped coming to meetings with us."

Therefore, he added, the changes could not be finalised, but that he remained confident that this could be done very soon.

"There may be differences on all other issues, refugees, Jerusalem, settlements etc., but there is no difference whatsoever, whether between us and the Palestinians or anyone else that Palestinian economy should be developed."

Asked how this was possible with the continued closure, Mr. Meridor reiterated the standard Israeli line that the siege of the West Bank and Gaza Strip was "related to security."

According to Palestinian sources, the PNA stayed away from following up on the proposed amendments to the Paris accord in protest against the continued closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"What is the purpose in putting down in paper something when the reality on the ground is that the entire Palestinian people remains under siege," said a Palestinian official.

"Let us reach basic agreements on Hebron that would reflect the Israeli commitment to the Oslo accords and then we can talk about finalising other things," said the official.

## Taba group fails to make progress

CAIRO (Agencies) —

Representatives of the ministerial Taba Group met here Wednesday to examine ways of promoting trade between Jordan, Israel, Egypt, the United States and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) but failed to make progress, a senior Palestinian official said.

"Until now the meeting yielded no results," Palestinian Minister of International Cooperation Nabil Shaath said on the sidelines of the third Middle East and North Africa economic forum.

"As long as the Palestinians will not have freedom to move and trade it will not be possible to guarantee Israel's freedom to trade in the region," Dr.

Shaath said.

Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb, who represented Jordan in the meeting, reiterated the need to activate the role of the committee, stressing that the seizure imposed on the PNA should be lifted as soon as possible. He also called for facilitating the exchange of goods among Jordan, Egypt and the PNA.

The U.S. information centre here said the ministers "decided to suggest a course of action to be implemented to remove trade barriers and to improve the Palestinian business environment."

"This course of action should be completed by March 1997," the statement said.

"Removing restrictive

measures will prevent the decline and contribute positively to the performance of the Palestinian economy as well as the political atmosphere surrounding the peace process," a statement said.

"The participants noted with concern that the already weak Palestinian economy is suffering from restrictions and closure which hinder the daily movements of Palestinian labour and trade," it added.

Israel has imposed since February a blockade of Palestinian territories after a wave of attacks inside the Jewish state.

The Taba group last met at the second economic forum which was held in 1995 in Amman.

## Israel, PLO inch forward but no agreement on troops redeployment

(Continued from page 1)

reached an agreement yet. The talks will continue."

Mr. Abbas said the sides had drafted clauses of a final Hebron accord dealing with civilian issues in the tense West Bank city, home to 400 Jewish settlers and 100,000 Palestinians. But Mr. Abbas said the main obstacles between the sides had not been resolved.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said Israel had refused to guarantee in writing specific dates for the resumption of final status peace talks or for implementation of outstanding issues in interim Israeli-PLO peace deals beyond the Hebron redeployment.

Mr. Levy, when asked by the radio whether Israel would pro-

vide such written guarantees, avoided the question.

PLO officials said they did not expect an accord could be sealed before Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu departed on a planned trip to the United States on Wednesday night.

More than one month of intensive U.S.-brokered talks between PLO and Israeli negotiators have failed to achieve results.

At daybreak on Wednesday, some two dozen Jewish ultra-nationalists clanged pots and pans and whistled outside Mr. Netanyahu's Jerusalem home to protest against a possible handover of Hebron to Palestinian self-rule.

"You promised. We believed. You betrayed," said one sign carried by demonstrators.

## Jordan celebrates King's 61st birthday

(Continued from page 1)

Civil Defence who pledged allegiance to the Hashemite throne.

The Royal Court also received messages addressed to the King from prominent Jordanians, heads of various organisations, tribal leaders, mayors, religious leaders and various public officials.

The cables stressed that through the King's wise policies Jordan has become an example of moderation for other nations in the fields of justice, openness, pluralism and democracy.

Cables also came from Kings and heads of state of Arab and other nations paying tribute to the King for his role in seeking a just and durable peace in the region.

### COLUMBIA

Records set at Sotheby's sale in New York

NEW YORK (R) — An anonymous bidder nearly \$12 million to Edgar Degas' sculpture "Petite Danseuse Quatorze Ans" Sotheby's Tuesday night.

The record for a Degas sculpture at auction. The \$11,882,500 bid was one of several record breakers in the opening night of Sotheby's fall auction. The finest works brought exceptionally high prices but the buyers were selective. While all five pieces from the Shelburne Museum collection were aggressively bid on, 38 per cent of the pieces offered were unsold by lot because they did not bring a minimum bid. The Shelburne offered selections from its collection of impressionist art based on a minimum guaranteed by Sotheby's.

The works brought more than \$28 million to the auction fee was attached to another anonymous bidder. They paid \$8,692,500 for a Degas drawing at auction. Another Degas drawing and the sitting. "Danseuse A Levee" brought \$6,052,500, again from an anonymous bidder.

Stephen Wynn, owner of the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas, bought "Portrait of Suzanne Lemaire," a drawing by Edouard Manet, for \$2,917,500, a record price for a Manet at auction.

Wynn plans to display the work at his hotel. The piece will go from Venice to Las Vegas, Sotheby's spokeswoman Diana Brooks, said under a resale agreement.

"La Cote Du Galet," a sculpture by Ponceau, topped the sale at \$11,002,500 with a bid of \$11,002,500. "Girls On A Bridge" by Edvard Munch brought \$7,702,500, a record for the artist at auction. Ponceau's "Composition" went for \$5,502,500.

"Nymphs" sold for \$5,062,500.

Allen to help rebuild opera house

VENICE, Italy (AFP) — American movie director Woody Allen will attempt to rebuild the European premiere of his latest film "Every One Says I Love You" when it opens here on Dec. 17, officials here announced Tuesday.

Allen had promised Venice Mayor Massimo Cacciari to organize the screening with proceeds due to help with the reconstruction of the city's opera house, which was destroyed last January in a fire. The movie was shot last autumn in Morocco.

Allen, who has lived in Venice, where he often vacations.

Pippi Longstocking's author turns 90

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — A national collection will take place across Sweden next year to honour the 90th birthday of popular Swedish children's author Astrid Lindgren.

Astrid Lindgren, famous for her tales of Pippi Longstocking. The year-long campaign will be kicked off Thursday when Ms. Lindgren turns 90. Organised by the Astrid Lindgren World Theme Park and the author's childhood town of Vimmerby in southern Sweden, it will raise money for a permanent museum exhibition about her life and writings.

Ms. Lindgren has written more than 30 children's books. The Exploits Of Pippi Longstocking have been translated into more than 20 languages.

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